

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3311.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1891.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE.

22, Albemarle-street, London, W.
The NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at CARDIFF, commencing on WEDNESDAY, August 19.

President Elect.

WILLIAM HUGGINS, Esq., D.C.L. LL.D. F.R.S. F.R.A.S.
Notice to Contributors of Memoirs.—Meetings of the Organizing Committees will be held during the course of the present month.
Information about local arrangements may be obtained from the Local Secretaries, Bank Buildings, Cardiff.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY. (Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

Patron—HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President—The Right Hon. Sir M. E. GRANT DUFF, G.C.S.I.
THURSDAY, 16th April, at 8.30 p.m., the following Paper will be read:—"Selections from State Papers and Accounts Illustrative of a Marchioness of Warwick's Mission to London and Calais during the First Half of the Sixteenth Century," by J. HIBBERT HALL, F.R.Hist.S.

20, Hanover-square, W.

THE SOCIETY of APOTHECARIES of LONDON give notice that a COURSE of TWELVE LECTURES on BOTANY will be delivered by J. G. BAKER, F.R.S. F.L.S., at their Garden at Chelsea, on the SATURDAYS of May, June, and July next, at 3 p.m.

The Lectures will be Open to all Medical Students and other Gentlemen being desirous to attend. Tickets of admission to be obtained of the Bedell.

J. R. UPTON, Clerk to the Society.
Apothecaries' Hall, London, E.C.

GRESHAM COLLEGE.—A further INTRODUCTORY COURSE of LECTURES will be given by KARL FRIEDRICH, M.A., Gresham Professor of Geometry, on the following days.—TUESDAY, 17th April, 'The Geometry of Motion'; WEDNESDAY, April 18, and THURSDAY, April 19, 'Motion and Force'; FRIDAY, April 20, 'The Classification of the Sciences'.
The Lectures are free to the Public and commence at 6 p.m.

THE HIBBERT LECTURE, 1891.—A Course of SIX LECTURES on 'The Origin and Growth of the Ideas of God as illustrated by the Comparative History of Religions' will be delivered in French by Count GOBLET D'ALVIELLA, Professor of History of Religions in Brussels, at the PORTMAN ROOMS, BIRMINGHAM, on the following days, viz.—Wednesday, 15th, Thursday, 16th, Monday, 20th, Tuesday, 21st, Wednesday, 22nd, and Thursday, 23rd April. Admission to the Course of Lectures will be by Ticket, without payment. Persons desirous of attending the Lectures are requested to send their names and addresses to Messrs. W. L. AND J. HIBBERT, 1, High-street, Covent-garden, W.C., not later than April 11th, and as soon as possible thereafter. Tickets will be issued to as many persons as the Hall will accommodate.

The same Course of Lectures will also be delivered by M. D'ALVIELLA at 90, HIGH-STREET, OXFORD, on each of the following days, viz.—Friday, 18th, Saturday, 19th, Monday, 21st, Thursday, 23rd, Wednesday, 24th, and Thursday, 25th April, at 5 p.m. Admission to the Oxford Course will be free, without Ticket.

PERCY LAWFORD, Secretary to the Hibbert Trustees.

LECTURES on ENGLISH LITERATURE.—Professor HALL, M.A., Clark Lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge, will give in MAY and JUNE a Course of LECTURES on MILTON at Harewood. For further particulars apply to the SECRETARY, 41, Belize Park-gardens, N.W.

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The COLLEGE and the Arts School will REOPEN for the Easter Term on THURSDAY, APRIL 17th. Applications for Places of Lectures may be taken. DR. H. FRANK HEATH will Lecture on "The Marian and Early Elizabethan Literature" (Wednesdays and Saturdays), on "English Literature from the Death of Pope to the Accession of George the Third" (Saturdays), on "Henry the Eighth" (Mondays and Thursdays).

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the next Half-Yearly Examination for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 8th of June, 1891. In addition to the Examination at the University, Provincial Examinations will be held at University College, Aberystwyth; with University College, Bangor; the Modern School, Bradford; University College, Cardiff; the Ladies' College, Cheltenham; for Ladies only; St. Gregory's College, Downside; the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; the Royal Medical College, Epsom; the Yorkshire College, Leeds; University College, Liverpool; the Owens College, Manchester; the School of Science, Nottingham; the Queen's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne; University College, Nottingham; St. Cuthbert's College, Durham; and St. John's College, Cambridge.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1891.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A NEW LIFE OF SIR THOMAS MORE	465
A RIDE TO INDIA	466
MRS. THRALE	467
A NEW BIOGRAPHY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN	468
NOVELS OF THE WEEK	469
THE COLONIES	471
OUR LIBRARY TABLE—LIST OF NEW BOOKS	471—472
APPARENT PICTURES; CHAUCER'S BALADE 'TO ROSE-MOUNDE'; MRS. AUGUSTUS CRAVEN; SALE; NOTES ON 'MEMOIRS OF JOHN MURRAY'; REMINISCENCES OF THACKERAY	472—474
LITERARY GOSSIP	475
SCIENCE—COUES'S HANDBOOK OF ORNITHOLOGY; ASTORICAL NOTES; GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES; SOCIETIES; MEETINGS; GOSSIP	476—478
FINE ARTS—ENGLISH BELLS AND BELL LORE; THE FRENCH GALLERY: A MISSING ROMAN INSCRIPTION; GOSSIP	478—480
MUSIC—THE WEEK; THE MUSIC OF 'L'ENFANT PRODIGUE'; GOSSIP; CONCERTS, &c., NEXT WEEK	481—482
DRAMA—THE WEEK; GOSSIP	482

LITERATURE

Life and Writings of Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England and Martyr under Henry VIII. By the Rev. T. E. Bridgett. (Burns & Oates.)

FATHER BRIDGETT has followed up his valuable life of Bishop Fisher with a still more valuable life of Sir Thomas More. It was natural to expect such a work at the present time, when attention has been called, by a recent decree of Pope Leo XIII., to the martyrs who suffered in England under the tyranny of Henry VIII. A good deal, moreover, has been ascertained about Sir Thomas during the last quarter of a century which was not known, or at all events not rightly known, before. Among other things, the real date of his birth has been found to be two years earlier than that given in all the old biographies—a fact which helps considerably to rectify the chronology of his early life. Then his letters, though they had all been printed by Ellis and the editors of the State Papers, can now be read in connexion with much other correspondence and documents previously little known which have a most important bearing on his conduct as a diplomatist, an officer of state, and a prisoner in the Tower.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the present is the most substantial biography of More that has yet appeared. The best that we have hitherto known is that by Sir James Mackintosh, written exactly sixty years ago, which occupied just 110 pages, notes and appendix included, in the first of two volumes of 'British Statesmen' in 'Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia.' Father Bridgett's work extends to 440 pages of text, as full of matter as an egg is full of meat, besides a few pages of appendix and notes. It is, as the title declares, a study not only of the life, but also of the writings of Sir Thomas. Father Bridgett has considered him from every point of view, and the result is, it seems to us, a more complete and finished portrait of the man, mentally and physically, than has been hitherto presented.

Of course in some things—as in the vivid descriptions of his domestic life drawn by the friendly hand of Erasmus—it was impossible to add another touch to the picture; and if we wanted more we should, perhaps, hardly look for it from the pen of a Roman

Catholic priest. This is precisely the aspect of Sir Thomas More which the modern spirit best appreciates; and the modern spirit believes that it understands him well. We are by no means sure that it does—indeed, Father Bridgett shows pretty conclusively that he has been considerably misinterpreted in this matter by such writers as Mr. Seebohm, and even Sir James Mackintosh, who speaks of More's marriage as if it had put an end to some morbid longings for an ascetic life, which he entertained during his four years' residence at the Charterhouse. The truth is that admiration for an ascetic life remained with him to the end; that he undervalued himself for having twice indulged in matrimony; and that he wore a hair shirt next his skin all his days.

He, in fact, surrendered himself to married life from a feeling that he was unworthy of a higher. As Erasmus wrote of him, *maluit maritus esse castus quam sacerdos impurus*. Curious stories, too (though Father Bridgett does not quite believe them), are related of his courtships both of his first and of his second wife, which would imply that in neither case was there one particle of romance about the matter; and the second marriage, it appears, followed within a few months of the death of his first wife. But this was all after the manner of the times, for romance was not then in fashion; and whatever may have been the story of the courtships, the unions themselves were happy. Father Bridgett rightly vindicates the second wife from the imputation generally cast upon her as a shrew. The very mode in which More insinuates this against her in a letter to Erasmus ought to put us on our guard against taking his words too seriously. Dame Alice could not go into all her husband's ideas, and might remonstrate now and then a little sharply; but a woman whom a husband seven years her junior persuaded to take lessons in the use of musical instruments for his sake could not have had a very bitter disposition. Her own little jesting on the subject occasionally looks very much like the reflection of her husband's wit. "I have," she would sometimes say to him, "this day left all my shrewdness, and to-morrow I will begin afresh"; and though Harpsfield, who records this saying, intimates that "now and then it proved very true," he tells us at the same time that Sir Thomas had a real relish for these attacks, and could give her again as good as she gave, which, indeed, we may well believe.

To do justice to More's wife in this matter is only to do justice to More himself; and Father Bridgett, we think, is the first to notice a characteristic allusion to her in one of More's own writings where she is not expressly named. In the 'Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation,' which he wrote when a prisoner in the Tower, we read as follows:—

"I wist a woman once that came into a prison to visit of her charity a poor prisoner there, whom she found in a chamber (to say the truth) meety fair, and at the leastwise it was strong enough. But with mats of straw the prisoner had made it so warm, both under the feet and round about the walls, that in these things, for the keeping of his health, she was on his behalf glad and very well comforted. But among many other displeasures that for his sake she was sorry for, one she lamented much in her

mind, that he should have the chamber door shut upon him by night, and made fast by the jailor that should shut him in. 'For, by my troth,' quoth she, 'if the door should be shut upon me, I would ween it would stop up my breath.' At that word of hers the prisoner laughed in his mind; but he durst not laugh aloud, nor say nothing to her, for somewhat indeed he stood in awe of her, and had his finding there much part of her charity for alms; but he could not but laugh inwardly, while he wist well enough that she used on the inside to shut every night full surely her own chamber to her, both doors and windows too, and used not to open them of all the long night. And what difference, then, as to the stopping of the breath, whether they were shut up within or without?"

Of course Lady More did not rise to the full height of her husband's heroism in his day of trial; but neither did his own favourite daughter Margaret, whose ardent affection pleaded, much as her stepmother had done, that More might surely save himself by taking the oath like other people—in fact, as she herself had done. But the truth is that, as we have seen, while More was a most loving husband and father, he undervalued himself for the very things which to modern readers appear the most attractive elements in his character: while possessed of "infinite humour," and a cheerfulness of spirit which could not help emitting jokes even on the way to the scaffold, all this was built upon a serious foundation of firm religious faith, and a clear-sighted vision from the first of the great dangers which beset a man's integrity in the days in which he lived. The cloud which overshadowed his family even in the time of Henry VII., when his own truly patriotic conduct in Parliament brought his father into trouble, could not but have been a warning to him all through life of the dangers of public employment; and we well understand the statement of Erasmus that no man ever made greater efforts to gain admission to the Court than More did to keep out of it. But from the time that he did enter the king's service he must have been fully prepared for what was in store for him.

The perpetual mixture of jest and earnest which we meet with in his writings was doubtless largely due to his deep sense of the moral dangers of the time and the necessity of meeting them with a cheerful, confident faith. Irony and satire dressed up with jokes, and a little humorous mystification which made the matter both safe and palatable, constitute the staple of his writings. His freaks of humour have bewildered modern readers, and sometimes even editors of his 'Utopia'—a book which of all works of imagination has certainly been the most strangely misrepresented. Yet the prosaic commentators of later days who think More was painting a model republic are matched by the simple-minded men of his own time who, believing Utopia to be really a new-found island in the Pacific, were anxious to go out and christianize the inhabitants!

A most serious purpose ran through 'Utopia,' which the student of the crooked politics of those days can be at no loss to understand. This land of Nowhere, as the title signifies, was certainly nowhere in the Pacific, but it was everywhere in Europe, where men professed to live not by the light of nature, but by that of Christianity. At

least the political morality of the Utopians was familiar in every court. Rewards for the assassination of enemies, intrigues to keep them at variance among themselves, the hiring of mercenaries from among the Zapoletæ (Swiss) to fight their battles, were parts of the foreign policy of the principal sovereigns of Europe, and particularly of Henry VIII. But the meaning is still more unmistakable when the author professes to point out the material *difference* between these enlightened pagans (who made no treaties because no nation would ever keep them longer than inclination served) and the happy state of matters which prevailed in Christian Europe, where treaties were always regarded as sacred, "partly from the justice and goodness of kings, partly from the fear and reverence they feel for the Sovereign Pontiffs; for, as the latter never take engagements upon them which they do not religiously observe, so they enjoin upon all princes to abide by their promises at all hazards, and, if they equivocate, subject them to ecclesiastical censures." The force of irony could surely go no further.

We have gone a little beyond Father Bridgett in this, and one of the few things to be regretted about his book is that, while he has given the reader some insight into the meaning of several of More's less-known writings, he expects every one to read the 'Utopia' for himself, and only devotes a page or two to the refutation of certain erroneous views about it. The very fact that the work is, unlike other of More's writings, easily obtainable, translations of it having been printed by Mr. Arber and Prof. Morley in their popular series, makes it all the more desirable that the reader should have the true key to unlock its mysteries put into his hands, and a few words more of criticism would not have been thrown away. But Father Bridgett strikes the true note in saying that the style of the 'Utopia' was adapted to a subtle purpose—that the author "had some rude truths to tell the king," and took the most effective way of doing so:—

"He had many burning questions to discuss; it was necessary therefore to mix with them some matters which could not be taken seriously or attributed to him as his own opinions."

At the same time it may be questioned whether this was more a matter of policy than of native temperament with him. His native humour, which, as we have said, did not desert him on the way to the scaffold, breaks out even in his most serious compositions. The very souls in purgatory, in whose behalf he wrote against Fish's 'Supplication of Beggars,' give utterance in his pages to sentiments which, from a terrestrial point of view, are decidedly amusing, as in the case of the departed husband who is conscious that his widow, now united to another partner on earth, recounts his merits to his successor in a way in which he never heard them extolled in his day. Nay, the things done on earth sometimes move the souls in purgatory to downright laughter, for which they feel it necessary to apologize. Matter like this the modern reader is hardly prepared to find in a serious disputation; but More could afford to jest just because he was so much in earnest. The things after death were to

him as real as the things of this present world.

In taking leave of this very interesting book we must express our regret that the author has not supplied an ordinary alphabetical index. We are grateful, indeed, for the excellent "chronological index" at the end, which is decidedly useful alike for dates and references to pages; but an alphabetical index besides would have been an additional boon, which it is to be hoped may in a future edition be supplied.

A Ride to India across Persia and Baluchistan.
By H. De Windt, F.R.G.S. (Chapman & Hall.)

The course of events tends to render the regions between Europe and India increasingly important. It behoves England, therefore, to perfect her communications, and travellers like Mr. De Windt, who are at pains to traverse and open up one of the principal routes from the Mediterranean to the Indian frontier, clearly deserve thanks for their enterprise. Not that Mr. De Windt covered the whole of the land route. He repaired to Tiflis with the hope of procuring leave from the Governor of the Caucasus to proceed across the Caspian and by way of the Trans-Caspian Railway to Bokhara, and thence striking across Afghanistan by way of Cabul to India. But permission for foreigners to proceed by this route is only obtainable, it appears, from the Russian War Minister in St. Petersburg, and Mr. De Windt had to content himself with traversing the length of Persia from north to south, and, after a coasting voyage to Sonmiani, exploring a little-known route northward to Khelat. Had the author been able to travel by land the whole way to the Indian frontier his narrative would have been most interesting. Curiously enough, within the last few months Sir R. Sandeman, with an escort and some topographers, has been mapping out the old caravan route from Kurrachee towards Southern Persia by way of Lus Beyla and Kej, and any light on its westward prolongation towards the beaten highways of Persian trade would have been valuable.

The line taken by the author does not pretend to reveal much new topography, but the discomforts of Asiatic travel in mid-winter have never been better told. They would undoubtedly have been greater had it not been for an exceptionally faithful and competent courier, one Gerôme Realini, whom Mr. De Windt managed to secure at Tiflis. Gerôme's account of the Central Asian railroad was not such as to make one long to journey that way:—

"The Trans-Caspian railway was so badly laid that trains frequently ran off the line. There was no arrangement for water, travellers being frequently delayed three or four hours while blocks of ice were melted for the boiler, while the so-called first-class carriages were filthy and crowded with vermin. Merv had become since its annexation a kind of inferior Port Said, a refuge for the scum, male and female, of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Odessa. Drunkenness and debauchery reigned paramount. There was no order of any kind, no organized police force, and robberies and assassinations took place almost nightly."

If there is no exaggeration here, the number of applicants to the War Minister

for permission to travel ought to be few indeed. On the other hand, the author himself speaks well of the line from Tiflis to Baku, and of Russian lines in general:—

"Although the speed is slow, nothing is left undone on the most isolated lines to ensure comfort, not to say luxury. Even in this remote district the refreshment-rooms were far above the average in England. At Akstafa, for instance, a station surrounded by a howling wilderness of steppe and marsh, well-cooked viands, game, pastry, and other delicacies gladdened the eye instead of the fly-blown buns and petrified sandwiches only too familiar to the English railway traveller. The best railway buffet I have ever seen is at Tiumen, the terminus of the Oural railway and actually in Siberia."

The incidents attending the land journey along the western shore of the Caspian from the Persian frontier to the capital were somewhat distressing. Mr. De Windt was shot off his pony into a deep pool of mud, his valuable sable overcoat being thereby ruined; but in spite of this and some exciting accidents on the frozen crest of the Kharzan Pass he arrived safely at Teheran towards the close of January. Here the reader finds himself on tolerably familiar ground, but the sketch of the Shah, his mode of life, his character, and the chief sights of the capital, includes some novel points. From Teheran to Ispahan the incidents of the route were comparatively uneventful, though the severities of the climate proved very trying to the Europeans. The seven telegraph stations in charge of Englishmen between Teheran and Bushire appear to be veritable oases of comfort to those pining for the amenities of Western civilization. At one of these, Abadeh, Mr. De Windt was quite affectionately received by two tame panthers, who, in the temporary absence of the master, were dispensing the hospitalities of the house. The lives of these officials appear to be far from unpleasant:—

"With cheap horse-flesh, capital shooting, the latest books and papers from India, a good billiard-room and lawn tennis grounds, time never hangs very heavily. Living is absurdly cheap. A bachelor can do well on 6*l.* per month, including servants. He has, of course, no house rent to pay."

At the Kazeroun telegraph station an earthquake shock in the morning is a regular daily incident; and at Konar Takte, further on, the same phenomenon recurred with such violence that the telegraph house was nearly ruined. So the lot of the Persian telegraph official, as the author truly remarks, is not always pleasant.

Bushire on the Persian Gulf marks the approach to a region where one enters on a new order of things. The city itself resembles a Moorish or Turkish rather than a Persian place, and the semi-French style of Teheran and Shiraz is here superseded by Anglo-Indian habits. *Déjeuner à la fourchette, vin ordinaire*, and cigarettes are unknown in this land of tiffins, pegs, and cheroots. Here Mr. De Windt took passage in one of the British India steamers, and was landed at Sonmiani, a dreary native port, north-west of Kurrachee, whence his land route through Beyla to Khelat and Quetta commenced. Part of this journey was over new ground, although Sir Robert Sandeman's subsequent expedition must have passed very close

thereto. Some of the Baluchis in these parts were anything but friendly to Mr. De Windt. The extension of British power, however, is making such strides throughout the country that signs of hostility like these must become fewer and fewer. The following is a description of the Khan of Khelat, the nominal ruler of Baluchistan :

" His Highness Mir Khudadad is about sixty years old. He would be tall were it not for a decided stoop which, together with a toothless lower jaw, gives him the appearance of being considerably more than his age. His complexion is very dark, even for a Baluch, and he wears a rusty black beard and moustache presumably dyed, and long coarse pepper and salt locks streaming far below his shoulders. His personal appearance gave me anything but a favourable impression. The Khan has a scowling expression, keen piercing black eyes, and a sharp hooked nose that reminds one forcibly of Cruikshank's picture of Fagin the Jew in 'Oliver Twist.' A massive gold necklace or collar, thickly studded with diamonds, rubies, and sapphires, hung round his neck. His total income may be put down at considerably over 30,000*l.* per annum. A thorough miser, the Khan does not, like most Eastern potentates, pass the hours of night surrounded by the beauties of the harem, but securely locked in with his money bags in a small uncomfortable room on the roof of his palace. There is not the smallest doubt in my mind that Russian influence is indirectly being brought to bear on the Court of Khelat. But Mir Khudadad may be said to have no policy. As the French say, ' Il change sa nationalité comme je change de chemise,' and is to be bought by the highest bidder."

" Russian influence " is an elastic phrase capable of various interpretations. But if the author means that any serious efforts are being made by friends of Russia to corrupt the allegiance of the Khan of Khelat, or that any such overtures, if they are made, are entertained by his Highness, we take leave to doubt it. There is good reason for supposing that the ruler of Afghanistan, whose geographical position is far more open to question, is loyal to the British alliance. But to imagine that the remote province of Baluchistan, which is actually garrisoned by our troops, and whose seaboard is at the mercy of our fleet, is being really invaded by Russian emissaries with the hope of detaching it from the British cause, is a dream at which the Khan himself would probably be the first to laugh.

Mrs. Thrale, afterwards Mrs. Piozzi: a Sketch of her Life and Passages from her Diaries.
Edited by L. B. Seeley. With Illustrations. (Seeley & Co.)

MRS. THRALE (to call her by her better-known name) has had to wait a long time for the biographical honours to which she is entitled. Soon after her death a volume of 'Piozziana' was published by her friend Mr. Mangin, and some years later Mr. Hayward edited Mrs. Piozzi's 'Literary Remains,' including in the selection sundry extracts from her hitherto unpublished Thraliana. But before the appearance of the present volume there was no regular biography of the lady whose name is often associated with some of her most famous contemporaries. Mr. Seeley has performed his task with skill and excellent judgment. Though he writes in evident sympathy with his subject, he is rigidly impartial, and

makes no attempt to describe Mrs. Thrale as a woman of genius, or to conceal the weak points of her character.

Hester Lynch Salusbury was an only child. Her parents were distant cousins belonging to an ancient Welsh family, but her father's estate at the time of his marriage was so seriously embarrassed that the bride's dower of 10,000*l.* was scarcely sufficient to pay her husband's debts and furnish a small cottage in Carnarvonshire. The imprudent match turned out badly. John Salusbury was not only a spendthrift, but his temper was violent, and Hester and her mother lived chiefly with Mr. Salusbury's younger brother at Offley Place, Hertfordshire. In the winter, however, they generally came for a short time to London, where John Salusbury had a house of his own in Dean Street, Soho. It was during one of these visits that Hester sat to Hogarth for the 'Lady's Last Stake,' when, according to her own statement, she was only fourteen. The story is to some extent confirmed by the likeness of the female gambler to Sir Joshua's portrait of Mrs. Thrale. Her account of the event was written, however, about fifty years after it had taken place, and her memory was not quite accurate as to her age. Hogarth's picture was painted for Lord Charlemont towards the end of 1759 (not in 1761, as Mr. Seeley suggests), when Hester Salusbury was not far from her nineteenth year. It is certain, however, that she was on friendly terms with Hogarth, who had recommended her to make the acquaintance of Johnson, and if possible obtain his friendship. Mr. Seeley is wrong in stating that the old joke of inviting a friend to *eta beta pi* was fathered on Hogarth by Mrs. Thrale. A facsimile of the letter of invitation (whether genuine or spurious), with a copy of the knife and fork sketch, was given on the title-page of John Nichols's 'Anecdotes of Hogarth.'

John Salusbury died in 1762, and in October of the following year Hester was married to Henry Thrale. A few years later she learned that her husband's choice had been influenced by her willingness to live at his brewery in Southwark, a sacrifice which he had asked in vain from more than one of the other young ladies of his acquaintance. Mrs. Thrale's first experiences of married life were not encouraging. Her husband kept a pack of foxhounds, but she could not hunt as Mr. Thrale disapproved of ladies riding. For some time after her marriage she never entered a theatre. She was not allowed to take any part in the management of the house, and was kept from all knowledge of her husband's business. "Her place," she was told, "was either in the drawing-room or the bed-chamber." This unsatisfactory state of affairs gradually improved. Mr. Thrale with all his reserve was essentially kind; his wife was anxious to do her best for him, and after the birth of a child (Queenie) a better understanding was arrived at between the apparently ill-matched couple. Mr. Thrale was, in fact, not at all such an unsuitable companion for his wife as she supposed. He was naturally undemonstrative, and did not wish his young wife to be too independent of him till she had acquired some knowledge of the duties of her new position; but his strength of character and

self-restraint were well adapted to control her rather flighty disposition.

There is no doubt that her married life with Henry Thrale was, on the whole, successful, and it was certainly the most important period of her career. This part of the subject is already well known, but it is a story which never loses its interest, and Mr. Seeley has told it well. We are glad to read again of Johnson's introduction to the Thrales when Arthur Murphy took him for the first time to the old house at Southwark. We are willing to hear once more of the first visit to Streatham of Fanny Burney, then in the full flush of excitement at the success of 'Evelina.' It is to this lively and observant writer that we owe a good deal of our information about the Thrales and their connexion with Johnson; for Boswell was seldom invited to Streatham, and from an account in Madame d'Arblay's 'Memoirs' of one of his visits it is easy to understand that he was not a particularly welcome guest. We have often regretted that Goldsmith was dead before Miss Burney became intimate at Streatham. It would have been curious to learn her opinion of the delightful writer, so little appreciated or understood by his contemporaries. In the account of one of her first visits to Streatham, Miss Burney speaks of a long talk with her hostess about Goldsmith, but no details are given of the conversation. Goldsmith was, we suppose, introduced to the Thrales by Johnson, to whom they were probably also indebted for their acquaintance with Reynolds, Burke, Topham Beauclerk, and many of their distinguished guests. Mr. Seeley is wrong in mentioning Mrs. Crewe as belonging to the set. Mr. Hayward says that she was not personally known to Mrs. Thrale, and in any case the acquaintance would have been but slight. In Madame d'Arblay's 'Memoirs' there is an amusing account of a party at her father's house, to which Mr. Greville (Mrs. Crewe's father) had, as a patron of Dr. Burney, accepted an invitation. To the great indignation of Fanny Burney, Mr. Greville took no notice of Johnson, specially invited to meet him, and "stared around him at the whole company in curious silence." Society in those days was a good deal more exclusive than at present, and the divisions between the different sets were strongly marked. In our own time a rich man like Thrale, a member of Parliament who always voted steadily with the Government, would most likely have been created a peer, and the best society in London would have flocked to his wife's entertainments and dinners. Mrs. Thrale may have numbered among her guests a few men of fashion who were attracted to her house by a desire to see Johnson, but they probably left their wives at home, and we should search in vain in the Visitors' Book at Southwark for the names of any of the great ladies who figured at Almack's or were intimate at Strawberry Hill and Devonshire House. Mrs. Thrale was too sensible to make any efforts to obtain admittance into a society where she would have been looked upon as an intruder; and Johnson himself, though for some years on familiar terms with Charles James Fox, was never, we believe, inside the gates of Holland House.

Mrs. Thrale's first serious troubles began when, a few months after her husband's

death, she lost her heart to Signor Piozzi. "Mrs. Thrale's acquaintance with Piozzi," writes Mr. Seeley,

"commenced in 1780. Their first meeting had been in 1777. Madame d'Arblay tells how one evening at Dr. Burney's house, when Signor Piozzi was accompanying himself on the piano, Mrs. Thrale, stealing on tiptoe behind him, began ludicrously imitating his airs and gestures."

This scarcely appeared promising of future intimacy, but in 1780, when the Thrales were in Brighton, Piozzi agreed to give Miss Thrale a few lessons in music, and soon became a great favourite with both the master and mistress of the house. Piozzi, the son of a gentleman at Brescia, was described by Samuel Rogers as "a very handsome, gentlemanly, and amiable person," and at the time of his visit to Brighton his professional earnings amounted to about 1,200*l.* a year. His fine voice, which had delighted the fashionable audiences at Vauxhall and other places of entertainment both in London and on the Continent, had lost its power. His performance on the pianoforte, however, was considered superior to anything then known in this country. So great was his reputation that he was summoned to Paris to play before Marie Antoinette, and he came back to England "loaded with presents, honours, and emoluments." This was about half a year after Mr. Thrale's death, and Johnson had not then any suspicion of the real state of Mrs. Thrale's feelings about Piozzi. The secret appears to have been first discovered by Miss Burney, and was soon afterwards made known to Miss Thrale. In spite of the remonstrances of her friends and the sullen opposition of her family, the widow was unable to overcome her passion. For a short time it was hoped that the affair was broken off. Piozzi at the lady's own request had given up her letters and started for Italy, but her health became seriously affected. After an absence of a year her lover was recalled, and the marriage took place in July, 1784. It is well known with what a storm of undeserved obloquy the news of the event was received. For the annoyance felt by the lady's family there were good reasons, but nothing could be more senseless than the general outcry, and the loudest in their attacks were those who had least right to interfere. Even the gentle Fanny Burney broke off all communication with her friend, and it was more than thirty years before they again met. Miss Burney's indignation was singularly unbecoming. Her own father was a musician, and a few years later she had no scruples about marrying a man who, like Piozzi, was a foreigner and a Roman Catholic. The close intimacy with Johnson Mrs. Thrale would in any case have soon broken off. He could not, or would not, see that she no longer wished to have him as a constant inmate of her house, yet the final rupture was painfully abrupt. On hearing of the marriage he refused to see her again, or even to allow her name to be mentioned in his presence, and destroyed every scrap of her writing which he could lay hands on. It is impossible not to regret such a violent ending to the long connexion between Johnson and the woman to whose considerate kindness and hospitality he owed the happiest years of his life.

Mrs. Piozzi, however, was too happy to be greatly affected by the hostile opinion of the world, and soon after the marriage the pair started for a tour on the Continent. They were absent for more than two years, and soon afterwards Mrs. Piozzi published an account of her travels. From these long-forgotten volumes Mr. Seeley quotes a few extracts, some of which are rather amusing. Mrs. Piozzi renewed her acquaintance with Mrs. Fermor (the niece of Pope's *Belinda*), whom she had seen on her former expedition to Paris in 1775. The lady was still the abbess of the English convent of the order of St. Augustine, and she inquired after Johnson, whom she had seen when he accompanied Mrs. Piozzi on her former visit to the Austin nuns. Paris was now (1784) wild with excitement about 'Le Mariage de Figaro,' which, as Carlyle so truly said, "spoke what all were feeling and longing to speak." In Italy Mrs. Piozzi spent much of her time in the picture galleries. Her art criticisms are of no value, but her remarks are sometimes characteristic. At Bologna the 'Diana among the Nymphs,' by Domenichino, reminded her of Hogarth's 'Strolling Actresses in a Barn,' and at Rome the bust of Caracalla appeared to her a perfect resemblance of the 'Idle Apprentice.' She found an old acquaintance at Naples in the hermitage on Vesuvius. The hermit was a Frenchman, but had formerly seen Mrs. Piozzi in London:—

"Did I never see you before, madam?" said he. "Yes, sure I have, and dressed you, too, when I was a hairdresser in London, and lived with M. Martinant, and I dressed pretty Miss Wynne [sic], too, in the same street. Vit-elle encore?"

Their homeward route was through Germany, and at Salzburg Mrs. Piozzi was diverted by the puppet shows in the public gardens, which recalled to her mind the performances at Don Saltero's coffee house at Chelsea.

In 1787 Mrs. Piozzi and her husband returned to England. Her 'Anecdotes of Johnson,' written during her stay in Italy, had been published in London in 1786, and "the first edition," Mr. Seeley tells us, "was exhausted on the day of publication, so that when the king sent for a copy in the evening there was none to be had." The little volume is highly characteristic of its writer. It is lively and amusing—occasionally, perhaps, rather spiteful—and the information which it furnishes about Johnson is of great value. Arranged for publication in a foreign country, without any means of verifying her recollection of the events recorded, the 'Anecdotes' contains several inaccuracies; still they are not important, and considering the provocations which the author had received, the general tone of the book speaks highly for her generosity. Mrs. Piozzi was, perhaps, somewhat indebted to Mr. Lysons and Sir Lucas Pepys, who revised the work for the press. We had once an opportunity of examining some of the proof-sheets, and there were certainly a good many erasures.

The remainder of Mrs. Piozzi's life was spent chiefly at Bath, where she gathered round her a large circle of friends, among whom were some of the associates of her former life at Streatham and Southwark.

Mrs. Piozzi lost her second husband in 1809, and after his death she adopted his nephew John Salusbury Piozzi. To the last she retained her love of society, and on her eightieth birthday she gave a ball and supper at which six or seven hundred guests were present. Her death at last, in May, 1821, was the result of an accident; but her sufferings were slight, and lasted only a few days.

She appears to have been a delightful companion, and one of the kindest women who ever breathed. She may have been flighty and extravagant, but she was certainly honest and sincere. Few lives, we fancy, could better stand examination than that of the vivacious lady whose history is recorded in Mr. Seeley's interesting pages.

Some of the illustrations in the volume are distinctly good, but there was no reason for including portraits of the Gunnings. We should have been glad to see in their place a photogravure of Mr. Piozzi from the picture which, we here learn, is still preserved at Brynbell. This would be very interesting, as no engraving, to our knowledge, exists of the talented and inoffensive musician whose marriage caused such fierce excitement among the busybodies of those days.

Abraham Lincoln: a History. By John G. Nicolay and John Hay. 10 vols. (New York, the Century Company; London, Fisher Unwin.)

Few modern Americans have better deserved a suitable memoir than Abraham Lincoln, and none has suffered greater injustice at the hands of his biographers. In the *Athenæum* for the 7th of September, 1889, we reviewed the three volumes of gossip, scandal, and twaddle which Mr. Herndon, Lincoln's partner and friend for twenty years, put forward as "the true story of a great life"; and we then hoped that the work which Messrs. Nicolay and Hay, his private secretaries, were preparing would be worthy of the subject. It has now appeared in ten large octavos, and like too many American biographies it is enormously long; while like many biographies it is unsymmetrical. Lincoln lived fifty-five years. His latest biographers give half a volume to the first forty years of his life, and fill nine and a half with the occurrences of the last fifteen.

Although this work will fail to rank high among biographies, the reason is no lack of care on the part of Messrs. Nicolay and Hay. They have been painstaking in the extreme, and have devoted twenty years of their lives to compose the story of Lincoln, whom they faithfully served as secretaries, and whose memory they revere. The greater part of what they have prepared has appeared monthly in the *Century Magazine* during the last four years. What the editor of that magazine omitted has been incorporated into the present work. The completeness of the biographers' information and the comprehensiveness of their opportunities will be learnt from the following sentences:—

"We knew Mr. Lincoln intimately before his election to the Presidency. We came from Illinois to Washington with him, and remained at his side and in his service—separately or together—until the day of his death. We were the daily and nightly witnesses of the incidents,

the anxieties, the fears, and the hopes which pervaded the Executive Mansion and the National Capital. The President's correspondence, both official and private, passed through our hands ; he gave us his full confidence. We had personal acquaintance and daily official intercourse with Cabinet Officers, Members of Congress, Governors, and Military and Naval Officers of all grades, whose affairs brought them to the White House. It was during these years of the war that we formed the design of writing this history and began to prepare for it. President Lincoln gave it his sanction and promised his cordial co-operation. After several years' residence in Europe, we returned to this country and began the execution of our long-cherished plan. Mr. Robert T. Lincoln gave into our keeping all the official and private papers and manuscripts in his possession, to which we have added all the material we could acquire by industry or by purchase. It is with the advantage, therefore, of a wide personal acquaintance with all the leading participants of the war, and of perfect familiarity with the manuscript material, and also with the assistance of the vast bulk of printed records and treatises which have accumulated since 1865, that we have prosecuted this work to its close."

Robert Hall complained that Dr. Gregory had piled too many books on his head, meaning that the doctor's acquired learning had overpowered his original thought. It is not easy, indeed, to deal with an enormous mass of material in such a way as to give vitality to the whole. A really great writer, who is also a great artist, can accomplish the feat, but Messrs. Nicolay and Hay have failed. They could not make up their minds, apparently, to sacrifice anything which they had laboriously procured.

Though the amount of new information in this work about Lincoln's early days is not great, yet the story is told in such a way as to appear fresh, while the facsimiles of documents and illustrations of places and persons enhance the interest of the text. No one can read the narrative of his early struggles without feeling that Lincoln was born to be a ruler over men, and his countrymen have seldom done themselves greater honour than by electing him to the highest office in their gift. His education was self-acquired, and nothing is more remarkable than the extent to which he managed to train his faculties. His countrymen are ready writers and fluent speakers, but they rarely rise to the rank of great orators or great writers. Lincoln often spoke and wrote in the true American fashion, yet he was equal to the occasion when called upon, and then he commanded homage as an orator of the first rank and a master of written words. Few addresses in modern times are more exquisite in tone and language than that which Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg.

Previous biographers have depicted Lincoln as a contradictory, if not an impossible personage, being at one moment a prey to the deepest melancholy, and at the next a teller of comic stories. Messrs. Nicolay and Hay place him in a more natural light. That he was fond of telling stories and able to tell them well is indisputable ; but that he was the author of many with which he is credited cannot be substantiated. There is no doubt that he suffered from great depression of spirits shortly before his marriage, but there is no evidence to confirm Mr. Herndon's assertion that Lincoln's married

life was a period of misery. Messrs. Nicolay and Hay point out that the early settlers in the West were tainted with constitutional sadness, which had its origin partly in the loneliness and gloom of their lot, and partly in the malarial influences to which they were exposed. These biographers remark that

"in many instances this miasmatic poison did not destroy the strength or materially shorten the lives of those who absorbed it in their youth ; but the effects remained in periodical attacks of gloom and depression of spirits which would seem incomprehensible to thoroughly healthy organizations, and which gradually lessened in middle life, often to disappear entirely in old age."

While Mr. Herndon, one of Lincoln's law partners, ascribes his melancholy to the "knowledge of his own obscure and lowly origin," Mr. John T. Stuart, who was another partner and was quite as intimate with him, gives the rational explanation that Lincoln's melancholy "was due to his abnormal digestion. His liver failed to work properly." It is clear from Lincoln's case that plain living and strict temperance do not always conduce to good health. Lincoln's beverage was water ; he never made use of tobacco in any form, and yet he was cursed with a malady which is generally associated with high living and indulgence in minor vices. In his character, as in his habits of life, there were many contrasts which we should not have expected to find. His early training was ill calculated to develop the finer side of his nature. His herculean strength gave him a physical superiority which few possess without abusing. Yet he was as gentle in disposition as he was temperate in his habits ; he detested cruelty in any form, and his delight was to reconcile differences among his fellows. When provoked he proved a tartar, but he was more reluctant to begin a quarrel than to end it. Indeed, Lincoln was so exceptional a man that his personal traits deserve to be set forth in their minutest particulars, and too much space could scarcely be given to the representation. In this huge work the man partly disappears among the mass of details relating to subjects which affected him indirectly only. There is too much history and too little hero.

Lincoln's assassination is the saddest of modern tragedies. Another President of the United States died from the bullet of an assassin, but the death of Garfield had not the consequences of Lincoln's. Much was hoped from Garfield as an administrator ; but there was no other basis than faith in the man for the expectation of what he might accomplish. Lincoln, on the other hand, had proved himself the greatest President since Washington, and his capacity for grappling with problems in the future was demonstrated by his success in solving others in the past. One of the best passages in this work is that in which the story of the assassination is told, but unluckily a long paragraph is interposed that mars the effect which the biographers doubtless intended to produce. Who wishes to read this sort of thing ?—

"The glitter of fame, happiness, and ease was upon the entire group, but in an instant everything was to be changed with the blinding

swiftness of enchantment. Quick death was to come on the central figure of that company—the central figure, we believe, of the great and good men of the century. Over all the rest the blackest fates hovered menacingly—fates from which a mother might pray that kindly death might save her children in their infancy. One was to wander with the stain of murder on his soul, with the curses of a world upon his name, with a price set upon his head, in frightful physical pain, till he died a dog's death in a burning barn ; the stricken wife was to pass the rest of her days in melancholy and madness ; of those young lovers, one was to slay the other, and then end his life a raving lunatic."

If Messrs. Nicolay and Hay thought it indispensable to write some such passage as the foregoing, they ought to have put it at the end of the narrative. Reflections, if made at all, should follow and not interrupt a story of crime. While there are few passages in this work like that just quoted, there are many of great excellence, and the writing, with the qualification which we shall state presently, is effective. As an example of the biographers at their best we shall give their conclusions on Lincoln's character :—

"His heart was so tender that he would dismount from his horse in a forest to replace in their nest young birds which had fallen by the roadside ; he could not sleep at night if he knew that a soldier-boy was under sentence of death ; he could not, even at the bidding of duty or policy, refuse the prayer of age or helplessness in distress. Children instinctively loved him ; they never found his rugged features ugly ; his sympathies were quick and apparently unlimited. He was absolutely without prejudice of class or condition. Frederick Douglass says he was the only man of distinction who never reminded him by word or manner of his colour ; he was as just and generous to the rich and well born as to the poor and humble—a thing rare among politicians. He was tolerant even of evil : though no man can ever have lived with a loftier scorn of meanness and selfishness, he yet recognized their existence and counted with them. He said one day, with a flash of cynical wisdom worthy of La Rochefoucauld, that honest statesmanship was the employment of individual meannesses for the public good. He never asked perfection of any one ; he did not even insist, for others, upon the high standards he set up for himself. At a time before the word was invented, he was the first of opportunists. With the fire of a reformer and a martyr in his heart he yet proceeded by the ways of cautious and practical statecraft. He always worked with things as they were, while never relinquishing the desire and effort to make them better. To a hope which saw the Delectable Mountains of absolute justice and peace in the future, to a faith that God in his own time would give to all men the things convenient to them, he added a charity which embraced in its deep bosom all the good and the bad, all the virtues and infirmities of men, and a patience like that of nature, which in its vast and fruitful activity knows neither haste nor rest."

None of the eulogiums upon Lincoln is truer and terser than that passed by General Grant, and it has the merit of being cast in good literary form :—

"To know him personally was to love and respect him for his great qualities of heart and head, and for his patience and patriotism. With all his disappointments from failures on the part of those to whom he had entrusted commands, and treachery on the part of those who had gained his confidence but to betray it, I never heard him utter a complaint, nor cast a censure, for bad conduct or bad faith. It was his nature to find excuses for his adversaries. In

his death the nation lost its greatest hero; in his death the South lost its most just friend."

It is a pity that Messrs. Nicolay and Hay should not have been more attentive to their diction. Words and phrases abound in these volumes which might not be out of place in an American newspaper, but which disfigure the pages of a work which is addressed to the English-reading public. "Offutt's boat had come to serious embarrassment on Rutledge's mill-dam," "Shields and Whitesides felt that their honour was still out of repair," "Lincoln approved a movement looking to his nomination for Governor," "Grant refused to be placated," "Francis P. Blair had helped President Jackson throttle the South Carolina nullification," are sentences at which we may fairly grumble. When the authors desire to say that a protest was ordered to be entered in the journals of the House, they write that a protest "was read and ordered to be spread on the journals"; while they declare in another passage that the Democrats "shouldered the dangerous dogma." Such a work as this, despite its bulk and its shortcomings, is destined to remain the standard work of reference on the subject. It would be well, then, to make it as perfect as possible in a future edition, for the sake of him who inspired it and who is its hero, as much as for the fame of its authors.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

The Laird o' Cockpen. By Rita. 3 vols. (White & Co.)

An American Duchess. By W. Fraser Rae. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

Guy Mervyn. By Brandon Roy. 3 vols. (Spencer Blackett.)

The Seal of Fate. By Lady Pollock and Walter Herries Pollock. (Longmans & Co.)

The Slave of his Will. By Lady Fairlie Cuninghame. (Spencer Blackett.)

A Successful Man. By Julien Gordon. (Putnam's Sons.)

Plein Cœur. Par Édouard Delpit. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

ATHOLE LINDSAY and Douglas Hay, of the female and male sex respectively, are both in the habit of analyzing themselves on the pages of highly subjective diaries. We have only two objections to Rita's book: the extreme prolixity of these self-communings, and the unfortunate selection of Scotland as the locality for such tender troubles. There is something morbid in Athole's self-consciousness, which is very unlike what one anticipates from a Scotswoman, as she is by race; while the attitude she takes in regard to local peculiarities on her first arrival in Scotland, though exactly what might be expected from a rather vulgar English girl suddenly thrown into second-rate Scotch society, does not, we feel, express what the author intended to depict. Why should a girl, however ill bred, "burst into laughter" at a name like Drumnadrochit, any more than at Cirencester or Hindolveston, or indeed Bridge Hill? It is time that people who can pronounce German well enough should lay aside such affectation when they come across a British guttural. The dialogue is

very carefully Scotticized, but has no genuine ring; and why, O why, will Rita speak of *golf-sticks*? Of course the Scottish "Sabbath" comes with the force of novelty to one absolutely new to the country, and we have a wearisome homily on this trite subject for the thousandth time. On the whole, it is hard to see why Athole should have gone to Scotland, unless because Rita has been there, and desired to describe Inverness and Oban and other well-known haunts of the tourist with much appreciation. The characters of the Laird or of the large family of buxom cousins whom Athole meets at Inverness are not at all unnatural, though the former is more rustic in habits and speech than we ever found a man of his station. On his unselfish nature, his simplicity, his deep-seated tenderness, turns the interest of the story, and this real piece of human insight redeems the tale from failure.

Following up his first success, 'Miss Bayle's Romance,' Mr. Rae has published a sequel in which, like Trollope, he reintroduces his old *dramatis personæ*. Mr. Rae has benefited by his experience, and 'An American Duchess' is the most successful of his novels. Its chief defects are that of plot there is little, and that that little is not particularly interesting. The most notable characters are still, as in the original tale, Mr. Bayle and his wife; and the episode of the millionaire's statue executed by "the Lightning Sculptress of the West" is the most amusing passage in the work. Mr. Rae is happiest when he deals with America and Americans, and his account of his duke's interviews with the reporters when he approached New York is cleverly done. Capt. Roker is the best of the characters that appear for the first time. He is sketched with a good deal of ability.

'Guy Mervyn' recommends itself in no way to the head or heart either. Religious and love sentiment, both of a sickly cast, alternate—which is the more unwholesome and less pleasing aspect of the case who reads may discover. Guy Mervyn himself is a young Highlander—as like a Turk as a Highlander for the matter of that—but that is a detail, perhaps. What he most resembles (before he "gets religion," and in spite of his stalwart proportions and his illicit passion for a certain lovely being, one Lady Elaine, nine or ten years his senior) is just "the fresh young girl" of our beloved England, full of strange slang and unmeaning gambols. As for the wicked Mr. Monk, the unfortunate possessor of Lady Elaine; the would-be "up to date" and utterly ungentlemanly Lord Montague; the dreary young cleric with doubts and a woebegone love affair—all these, and others, do not interest the reader at all. What he wants to know—only this, and nothing more—is why Guy Mervyn is supposed to be unable to make a better shot than "Bidger" at the name of his remarkable dog "Bijou." A Whitechapel gentleman's difficulty in grappling with the situation, and the relief afforded him by the introduction of the letter 'r,' may be understood—not the Highland gentleman's.

'The Seal of Fate' is to be classed among novels only with hesitation. It certainly is to some extent a story, and it is dedicated to Mr. George Meredith; but the authors

do not call it a novel on the title-page nor in the preface, where it is spoken of as a work founded on a previous work called 'A Cast of the Dice.' In these circumstances it is not easy to set down the precise value of a piece of enigmatic fiction by two clever writers. Any one can see that they are clever writers, that they have something to say about many interesting topics, that one or both of them can write pretty little songs, and that they can say smart things; but a perusal of 'The Seal of Fate' does not convince the reader that the authors have the gift of telling a story or the power of delineating character in action. Some of the minor persons are well sketched; the others are hazy. One is forced to the supposition that such matters are not what the authors have been mainly concerned with. Possibly it is not the duty of authors to make their readers see what they are driving at, but certainly it is their duty to make their readers see that they are driving at something. It is, therefore, difficult to say that 'The Seal of Fate' is thoroughly successful.

Many wholesome-minded people must have echoed the protest against "medicated novels" which lately appeared in a weekly contemporary. 'The Slave of his Will' is distinctly a medicated novel, though whether its details are scientifically correct may well be considered doubtful. Let those who are qualified to do so judge to what extent an inane and thoroughly hysterical girl could be hypnotically influenced by a handsome and unscrupulous young man, and decide whether Iris Enderby could have been forced to try to poison her husband without her consent or even her consciousness. The lovely and unwholesome idiot had no sort of grudge against her lawful owner, and, in fact, was only too pleased to be left in peace and live happily with her victim ever afterwards. The lay reader, to whom a hypnotic subject is by no means particularly attractive, will no doubt feel that Lady Fairlie Cuninghame should, in common justice, have rid her world of so dangerously helpless an incumbrance, and have opened the way to happiness for poor May Manvers, a nice, healthy, high-principled girl. The life of a large family in a hospitable country house is described with the charm of real comprehension and sympathy. It is a pity that the writer should have chosen to spoil a bright, commonplace story by dabbling in matters so doubtful and difficult.

The cleverness and lightness of touch which characterized 'A Diplomat's Diary' are not wanting in the later work of the American lady who writes under the pseudonym of "Julien Gordon." The question of the sex of the author might have exercised the mind of a reader of the former work. But, apart from authoritative information on this point, the internal evidence furnished by the elaborate description in the story before us of Mrs. Gresham's morning toilette is conclusive. A Frenchman of the *décadent* type might have penned this chapter; but it is to be hoped that neither in England nor in America do such Peeping Toms exist among the tribe of male novelists. Given the sex of the writer, the style and contents of this chapter are unobjectionable enough. As for the main idea of the story—the intersection of two wholly different strata

of American life, one fast and fashionable, and the other domestic and decorous—it is worked out with much skill and alertness of treatment to its inevitably tragic issue. The various types of American society are well chosen and contrasted, and, as is generally the case where a native author is concerned, unsparingly handled. Above all, there is one pathetic character in the book—the lonely wife—who really compels the sympathy of the reader. In most books of the sort the sympathetic personage is conspicuously absent.

M. É. Delpit is distinctly improving as a novelist. For his earlier works we did not care; but the present volume, 'Plein Coeur,' is a very able novel, with at least one powerful character—a young duke, extremely "modern," but not without nobility. M. Delpit has now proved his strength, and ought to be able to give us good work in the future.

THE COLONIES.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH's book, *Canada and the Canadian Question*, published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., is exactly the work which might have been expected by one prophesying of its nature. Readable, even pleasant, in spite of its generally penitential nature, Mr. Goldwin Smith's volume tells the story of the past of Canada from his point of view of an inevitable destiny pointing to its ultimate absorption in the United States. Mr. Goldwin Smith satirizes the Canadian constitution, and ridicules Viceroys and their courts; but all in such good temper, and in such good English, that even Sir John A. Macdonald will hardly be able to be angry with him, though he may find it necessary on public platforms to express anger. The points where Mr. Goldwin Smith, to our mind, establishes the truth of his contentions concern the military defence of Canada, and the small value of the Canadian Pacific to the Empire as a military route. He shows the difficulty of defending the present Canadian frontier, the fewness of the organized Canadian militia, the dislike of the Canadian people for keeping up an army. Mr. Goldwin Smith exaggerates the power of the French Canadians in order to try to fix us with the alternative, "either American, or else a Catholic France in America." There is, however, of course, nothing new in Mr. Goldwin Smith's views, which he has expressed on a hundred occasions in his speeches and letters, and in a newspaper which for a long time represented his opinions. It is well to have them put together for us in a complete work, and still better to possess them in such an admirable literary form. But we venture to prophesy that nine-tenths of those who read him will end, as they began, without agreement in the opinions that he has set forward. Of detail the name of "Paper Tigers" for the "Canadian Jingoes" strikes us as distinctly good. Mr. Goldwin Smith admits fully the difficulties which stand for the present in the way of that annexation which he contemplates as a necessity in the long run. He concedes that repulsion is created by the scandals of American politics, by the corruption which has reigned of late, by the turmoil of presidential elections, and by the enormities of the Pension List. Men of British blood, he thinks, are disgusted by the anti-British language of the American press, and there are equal difficulties in his way upon the American side. Mr. Goldwin Smith's opponents will add to the statement of them the question why, then, he cannot let the Canadians alone till time has brought them there where he thinks they must come—namely, to his way of thinking about annexation.

MESSRS. DAWSON BROTHERS, of Montreal, have issued *Canadian Studies in Comparative Politics*, by Dr. Bourinot, the well-known Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons and the Erskine May of Canada. The work consists of three chapters, apparently lectures, of which the first is on the English character of Canadian institutions, the second on a comparison between the political systems of Canada and the United States, and the third on a comparison between the Federal Government of Switzerland and that of Canada. The whole volume is interesting, and may be recommended at this moment to the consideration of Australian politicians, and of all those in the mother country who are trying to follow the discussions taking place at Sydney, out of which we are hoping against hope that Australian federation may soon grow. Unfortunately the Australians are giving but insufficient attention to Canadian example, and appear inclined to commit some of those mistakes which Canada has avoided.

MESSRS. GRIFFITH & FARRAN publish *Coo-ee*, a volume of tales of Australian life by Australian ladies, edited by Mrs. Patchett Martin. The first story is, on the whole, the best, 'An Old-Time Episode in Tasmania,' by Tasma; but we regret that Madame Couvreur should have thought it necessary to go back for her subject to convict days. It is time that these were forgotten, and it is not agreeable for Tasmanians to be continually reminded of the horrors of the early youth in British civilization of their lovely country. This is the only criticism that can be made on Tasma's story, which is pretty and perfectly told. It contains also a happy phrase: "the inflexibility that comes of finality of opinion regarding what is proper and what is the reverse—a rule of conduct that is of universal application for the true British matron." The second story in the volume, that by Mrs. Henry Day, is well told and readable, but a little risky. The third is somewhat vulgar, although most powerful, and the next three are less strong. We do not like to find a lady writing of one of her heroines as having a "banana-fed voice," nor of "a baby out on the spree." But Tasma and Mrs. Day and the editor could make a good volume by themselves, even if Mrs. Campbell Praed, who has a story among the seven, did not contribute something more like her very best work than the story which she has given to this volume.

FROM MESSRS. HARRISON & SONS there reaches us *The Colonial Office List for 1891*, by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Sidney Webb, of the Colonial Office, of which we need only say that we have ever mentioned, in discussing books of reference, the 'Colonial Office List' among the very ablest. Never have we found mistakes in the first part of the book, nor ground for criticism in its admirable accounts of the colonies taken one by one; but in the List proper, the record of the services of persons connected with the colonies, we have found a variety of treatment which is inevitable, but somewhat disagreeable. Some men utterly unimportant have a third of a column, while some men really remarkable are passed over with six lines. We can hardly ask a man so busy or so useful as Mr. Sidney Webb to read himself every line of the alphabetical list of persons, with the view of cutting out unnecessary description of unimportant men or of adding, in the case of important ones, particulars which, when asked, they have not given. As a mere statement of services the List is accurate, and we have no right to expect that it should be more, although the volume would be more interesting and more useful to journalists if more were given. We know the difficulty, and fully understand the answer that may be made. But if the List itself could be improved, the volume would form an absolutely perfect book of reference, and no other such work relating to the colonies need be kept in any newspaper office in the country.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MR. DAVID RITCHIE, Fellow and Tutor of an Oxford college, publishes through Messrs. Sonnenschein & Co. *The Principles of State Interference*, a volume containing four essays, of which two are on the political philosophy of Mr. Herbert Spencer, one on Mr. Mill's 'Liberty,' and one on Mr. T. H. Green's political philosophy. The essays have previously appeared in reviews, but they have been to some extent revised. They constitute a philosophical defence of a certain measure of State action or State interference, against such views as have been put forward by Mr. Herbert Spencer and his friends the writers in a volume recently reviewed by us. Mr. Ritchie's doctrine is that there is no inconsistency in reformers at one time resisting, and at another time supporting, State interference:—

"There is a time to break down and a time to build up; and the same men may have to do both. If Mr. Spencer came one day on a company of workmen demolishing a large building, and some days afterwards found them erecting something else on the same place, he would say to them: 'You have mistaken your work. Your business is to make the way clear for individuals like myself to walk about in as we choose.' Some one might perhaps answer him: 'The other day we were pulling down an old palace and an old prison; to-day we are building a school and a library.' There is no necessary inconsistency in the same party having struggled against protection, monopolies, and privileges, which favoured a few individuals at the cost of the vast mass of the people, and now struggling to protect individuals who are not wise enough nor strong enough to protect themselves against the selfishness of those whom past legislation, or past neglect, has allowed to acquire an undue power over them.....In a country where political freedom has been won, not by a sudden revolution transferring power from one class to another, but by a very long and very gradual series of struggles between the non-privileged and the privileged, or between the more privileged and the less privileged classes, this long struggle has left as an inheritance a permanent jealousy of rulers, ready-made disposition to suspect and resent Government interference."

MESSRS. W. H. ALLEN & CO. publish *Sketches of some Distinguished Indian Women*, by Mrs. E. F. Chapman, with a preface by Lady Dufferin. Mrs. Chapman's book may do good in India, but it is not particularly lively reading, containing as it does the lives of five Indian ladies of whom the ordinary reader in this country has not heard, and of whom there is, after all, not any very great deal to be said. The most advanced and the most remarkable of Indian women are, by the nature of things, so infinitely behind the best trained of their sisters in this country that it is difficult to do more than take some slight pathetic interest in their lives. They are altogether wanting, not by their own fault, in that spirit and that reading which make great numbers of Indian men so remarkable among all the men of the whole world.

NO. XII. of the Third Series of *Tales from Blackwood* (Blackwood & Sons) opens well with a story of the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco. 'The Grateful Ghosts' is a story of innocent *diablerie*. The ghosts are very perfect gentle knights, worthy predecessors of the ancient baronet who says, "In my day, sir, a gentleman believed in his Creator, and returned his partner's lead." The salt monopoly in Bengal furnishes the text for a remarkable narrative showing how, in distant villages, the impost gave opportunities to police and salt inspectors to wreak vengeance for private grudges by denouncing supposed smugglers to the authorities. The number winds up appropriately with a tale of Scotch rural life in the region of the Fife-shire Lomonds, which impresses the moral of religious toleration, not yet quite unnecessary in some districts north of the Tweed.

WE have not perused *Men and Women of the Time*, of which the thirteenth edition has just been published by Messrs. Routledge & Sons under the editorship of Mr. Washington Moon; but we have turned over all its pages, and seen

enough to feel sure that it has been improved under the present editorship. Some people have been left out who should not have been inserted in previous editions; a great many have been put in who should have been; and the question of inclusion and exclusion seems to have been settled on the whole as well as it would have been likely to be under any editorship. The lengths allotted to various people are, however, disproportionate. Lord Hartington, for example, has but three-quarters of a page, and M. Buffet is noticed at equal length, as is Thomas Nast. Scientific men generally are treated better than the politicians and the literary men (except Mr. Gladstone, who, deservedly, has the longest article in the book). The Rev. Robert Harley, for example, receives more than a whole page; Sir William Aitken a page and a quarter. Dr. Allbutt has as much space as Lord Hartington, while Mr. Frederic Harrison's friends have to be content with much less than half a page about him; yet Col. Baird obtains a page and a quarter. Some people who are not men of science are too favourably treated as compared with the politicians and the men of letters. Madame Blavatsky has a page and a quarter, Arabi a page and a quarter, and Sir George Baden-Powell a page and a half—notices which, in comparison with some others, are too long. In the article on Madame Blavatsky Mrs. Besant is named, but Mrs. Besant has no notice. We should have thought that she might properly have had a few lines, and that a similar number of lines might have sufficed for Madame Blavatsky. Baron de Cossion receives between half and three-quarters of a page—more than is given to Mr. L. H. Courtney. We know, however, the difficulty that there is in getting together the facts about certain people, and how greatly too easy it is to find them about others. We have noticed a few mistakes in names. Sir Joseph Crowe's knighthood is mentioned in the notice of him, but not in the heading of the article. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice is described as "Edmund" throughout. Lord Connemara is in as Mr. Bourke; two different people are named as present president of the Wesleyan Conference. The titles of peers and of some ladies are wrongly given. In some cases of peers, and lords not peers, the title is given in a parenthesis after the surname, but would have been better placed after the Christian names. For instance, we have "Brassey, (Lord) Thomas," whereas "Brassey, Thomas (Lord)," would have been better. Such forms as "Broome, Lady Mary Ann," and "Butler, Lady Elizabeth," should have been avoided, as they play into the hands of those inferior journalists who are too fond of describing the wives of knights and baronets as though they were the daughters of earls, marquises, or dukes. We do not like the classification of French noble names under the D of "de." A journalist wishing to find the French Prime Minister would, we think, look for him under F and not under D; and it is difficult to give a reason why Frenchmen of birth or title should be catalogued as "de," and Germans of similar rank not placed under the V of "von." It is easy, however, to find small faults with any work of reference, and it is a pleasanter task to find strong points. That of the present book is the excellent one that it forms, in spite of the faults which we have described, and others which longer use will doubtless reveal, the best English work on the biography of living persons.

THE third part of Mr. Alfred Beaver's *Memorials of Old Chelsea* reaches us from Mr. Stock. In it the historical introduction is concluded, in which the author has treated such information as cannot now be assigned to any particular part of Chelsea. The third part also sees the beginning of the topographical history of the parish in detail, taken place by place, and naturally the old church stands first. In our remarks upon the first two parts we suggested that the historical introduction had per-

haps not made enough of Sir Thomas More and other famous residents whose houses have disappeared, but it is probable that the author intends to treat of their lives under the places where their houses stood. The work fully keeps up its interest.

The Medical Register and *The Dentists' Register*, two of the most satisfactory books of reference that the year brings, have reached us from Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co.—*The Calendar of the Royal University of Ireland* (Dublin, Thom & Co.) is notable for the relegation of the examination papers to a separate volume.

A NEW edition in one volume of *The Life, Letters, and Diaries of Sir Stafford Northcote*, by Mr. Lang, has reached us from Messrs. Blackwood. The chapter on Lord Iddesleigh as a parliamentary leader has been rewritten, and some letters of Disraeli's inserted. It is a pity an index has not been added.—*Oldbury*, Miss Keary's deservedly popular novel, has been published in one convenient volume by Messrs. Macmillan. The same publishers have included *The Lances of Lynwood* in their edition of Miss Yonge's novels.—*A Legend of Montrose* and *The Black Dwarf* form the new volume of Messrs. Black's sixpenny edition of the "Waverley Novels."—*Fortunes made in Business*, Mr. Hogg's popular volume, has been reissued by Messrs. Griffith & Farran.—The second volume of *The Handbook of Games*, in its enlarged shape, has been sent us by Messrs. Bell & Sons.

WE have received the reports of the free libraries at Brighton, Cambridge, Cheltenham, St. Helens, Salford, Warrington, and Wigan. The reports as a whole are cheerful in tone. Cheltenham has had the good luck to be presented by the Misses Day with the collection of books bearing on natural history which belonged to their father, the late Mr. Francis Day. From Chelsea comes a catalogue of the Central Library, the work of Mr. Quinn, which shows that the library has started with a respectable collection of books,—from Nottingham a class list dealing with bibliography, compiled by Mr. Potter Briscoe and Mr. Herring.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Bonney's (T. G.) *Old Truths in Modern Lights*, cr. 8vo. 7/6
Brown's (D.) *The Apocalypse*, its Structure and Primary Predictions, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Fraser's (W. F.) *A Cloud of Witnesses to Christian Life and Doctrine*: *Apostles*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Fuller's (Rev. M.) *The Throne of Canterbury*, or the Archbishop's Jurisdiction, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Old Testament in Greek according to the Septuagint, edited by H. B. Swete, Vol. 2, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Psalms of the Pharisees, edited with Introduction, by H. E. Ryle and M. R. James, 8vo. 15/ cl.
Pusey's (Dr.) *Commentary on the Minor Prophets*, Index to, roy. 4to. 2/ cl.
Rand's (Rev. E. H.) *Sermon Register and Ready Reference*, cr. 8vo. 2/ bds.
Synoptical Collection of Daily Prayers of the Greek Orthodox Church, edited by Katherine, Lady Lechmere, 6/ cl.
Talmage's (Rev. T. de Witt) *Twenty-five Sermons on the Holy Land*, 12mo. 2/ cl.

Law.

Hamilton's (W. F.) *A Manual of Company Law*, 8vo. 12/6 cl.
Poetry.

Fox's (C. A.) *Lyrics from the Hills*, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Greek Lyric Poetry, arranged by G. S. Farnese, 8vo. 16/ cl.
Legend (The) of Dahut, and other Poems, by C. E., 2/6 cl.
Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, edited by W. Minto, 12mo. 3 6/ cl.
Introduction and Notes by G. H. Stuart, 12mo. 2/ cl.
Waithman's (H. M.) *Charybdis*, and other Poems, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.

Philosophy.

Marshall's (J.) *A Short History of Greek Philosophy*, 6/ cl.
History and Biography.

Bryson's (Mrs.) *John Kenneth Mackenzie*, Medical Missionary to China, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
De Quincey's *Memorials*, edited with Notes, &c., by A. H. Japp, 2 vols. demy 8vo. 30/ cl.
O'Reilly's (J. B.) *Life, with his Poems and Speeches*, by J. J. Roche, 8vo. 12/ cl.
Stephens's (H. M.) *Portugal*, 5/ (Story of the Nations).

Geography and Travel.

Bartholomew's (J.) *Popular Hand Atlas of the World*, 12/6
Waller's (Rev. H.) *Ivory, Apes, and Peacocks*, an African Contemplation, cr. 8vo. 2/ cl.

Philology.

Ellis's (R.) *Noctes Maniliæ sive Dissertationes in Astronomia Maniliæ*, cr. 8vo. 6/ half-parchment.
Müller's (F. Max) *Science of Language*, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/ cl.

Science.

Hobson's (E. W.) *Treatise on Plane Trigonometry*, 8vo. 12/ cl.
McPherson's (Rev. J. G.) *Fairyland, Tales of Science*, 2/6 cl.
Norton's (G. P.) *Textile Manufacturers' Bookkeeping*, 21/ cl.
Posselt's (E. A.) *The Structure of Fibres, Yarns, and Fabrics*, 2 vols. 4to. 63/ cl.
Smith's (R. M.) *Physiology of the Domestic Animals*, illustrated, 8vo. 28/ cl.
Thorpe's (T. E.) *Dictionary of Applied Chemistry*, Vol. 2, 8vo. 42/ half-bd.

General Literature.

Abbott's (E. A.) *Philomythus, an Antidote against Credulity*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Armistead's (A. W.) *Tales and Legends of the English Lakes*, cr. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
Brown's (R.) *Jack Abbott's Log, a Yarn of the Merchant Service*, new and cheaper edition, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Burdett-Coutts' (Mr.) *Brookfield Stud of Old English Breeds of Horses*, 4to. 5/ cl.
Burrell's (A.) *Recitations, a Handbook for Teachers*, 3/6 cl.
Capp's (W. M.) *The Daughter, her Health, Education, and Wedlock*, 12mo. 5/6 cl.
Clare's (A.) *For the Love of a Lass*, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Everybody's Book of Wit and Humour, English, Scotch, and Irish, 2/6 leather.
Field's (Mrs. E. M.) *The Child and his Book*, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Gissing's (G.) *New Grub Street*, a Novel, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 31/6
Hassell's (J.) *Familiar Objects of Every-day Life*, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Hutcheson's (J. D.) *Maisie Warden*, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Knight's (E. F.) *Save Me from my Friends*, a Novel, 6/ cl.
Saintsbury's (G.) *Essays on French Novelists*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Shoemaker's (J. V.) *Heredity, Health, and Personal Beauty*, roy. 8vo. 14/ cl.
Speight's (T. W.) *Hoodwinked and The Sandy-croft Mystery*, 12mo. 2/ bds.

FOREIGN.

Theology.

Bludau (A.): *Alexandrina Interpretatio Libri Danielis*, Part 1, 1m. 50.

History and Biography.

Bacourt (De): *Souvenirs d'un Diplomate*, 3fr. 50.
Gavaignac (G.): *La Formation de la Prusse Contemporaine*, 7fr. 50.

Tour (P. I. de la): *Les Élections Épiscopales dans l'Église de France (814-1150)*, 7fr. 50.

Science.

Laveran (A.): *Du Paludisme et de son Hématozoaire*, 10fr.

General Literature.

Cahun (L.): *Hassan le Janissaire*, 3fr. 50.
Gaulleir (H.): *Études Américaines*, 3fr. 50.
Montal (M.): *L'Idéal de Germinal*, 3fr. 50.
Verlaine (P.): *Bonheur*, 3fr. 50.
Witt (Madame de): *Regain de Vie, Courage de Femme*, 2fr.

APPARENT PICTURES.

I.

THE OCTOPUS OF THE GOLDEN ISLES.

"What! Will they even strike at me?"

ROUND many an Isle of Song, in seas serene,
With many a swimmer strove the poet-boy,
Yet strove in love: their strength, I say, was joy
To him, my friend—dear friend of godlike mien!
But soon he felt beneath the billowy green

A monster moving—moving to destroy:
Limb after limb became the tortured toy
Of coils that clung and lips that stung unseen.

"And canst thou strike ev'n me?" the swimmer said,

As rose above the waves the deadly eyes,
Arms flecked with mouths that kissed in hellish wise,
Quivering in hate around a hateful head.—
I saw him fight old Envy's sorceries:
I saw him sink: the man I loved is dead!

II.

DEATH OF ROGER DUNTON,

THE ENGLISH ROSICRUCIAN OF ST. IVES BRIDGE-HOUSE.

WHAT chymic blast hath torn away thy vizard,
Gashing that pallid forehead to the bone,
Wrecking this cell where skull and skeleton
Grin in response to grinning snake and lizard?—
Through every shattered pane what vengeful blizzard

Spits snow-dust o'er thy body lying prone?—
Great Nature—jealous of her mystic Stone,
Her life-elixir—spits upon thee, Wizard!

"Fool of a race of fools whose barren strife
The phantom Future mocks," the Mother saith,
"While all mine other children know how rife
With joy is Day's rich dower I won from Death,
'Tis Man, mine idiot-born, who spends his breath
Never in living, but in seeking life."

THEODORE WATTS.

CHAUCER'S BALADE 'TO ROSEMONDE.'

WITH regard to an expression in the newly found "Balade" by Chaucer, published for the first time in last week's *Athenæum*, p. 440, Dr. Furnivall refers me to the 'Cookery Books'

edited by Mr. T. Austin for the Early English Text Society in 1888, p. 101. Two recipes for "Pike in galentyne" are there given. The second one directs the cook to "cast the sauce under him and above him, that he be al y-hidde in the sauce." This precisely illustrates Chaucer's statement, that he is "walwed in love" as much as ever was "a pike in galantyne."

I explained a "small voice" as being a high voice. I should have added that it also implies that the voice is soft and clear. Dr. Schmidt defines *small* as "fine, of a clear and high sound," with references to 'Twelfth Night,' I. iv. 32; 'Cor.' III. ii. 114. Todd notes that the "still *small* voice" of 1 Kings xix. 12 appeared as "a still and *soft* voice" in the translation of 1578. There is an excellent example of this use of *small* in 'The Flower and the Leaf,' I. 180:—

With voices sweet entuned, and so *small*,
That it me thought the sweetest melody
That ever I heard in my life, soothily.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

MRS. AUGUSTUS CRAVEN.

The author of the 'Récit d'une Sœur,' that prose lyric of tender companionship hastening to an early grave, has herself died in loneliness at eighty-three. By all except her friends, and perhaps by some of these, Mrs. Augustus Craven must remain in memory as the Pauline of her own pages—a woman who, fifty years ago, had for a brother Albert de la Ferronnays, doomed for death in the first days of his married life; and for sisters had Eugénie, a three years' wife wooed by death, and Olga, who knew no other espousals, spirited away in her maidenly teens. These their early departure made doubly immortal; for to no historian of the domestic life of our century will the human documents brought together by Mrs. Craven seem superfluous. This book of love, marriage, and death was crowned by the Academy, went through forty French editions, and at once passed into English. "Why does heat harden eggs and soften butter?" Mrs. Craven's friend Lacordaire, laying down his knife and fork, once asked a too complacent scorner of riddles in the supernatural order. More wayward than fire in its working are those mental and spiritual forces which make Catholics glow and fuse, while they freeze Protestants. Here, however, was a book warm from the bosom of Catholicism which melted hearts the most stoutly heretical. Here, too, were diaries and letters of young ladies in which there was no pose, no importunity. The French girl, who shows herself so little to her neighbour, was here exhibited to all beholders. Her friends, who had danced with her till dawn, might now follow her from the ball-room to the bed-room, and might supplement the last light farewell in society by the cry of her heart in secret: "Prayerless days are lifeless days. Give me new life, my God, my God!" The congregation whose eyes strayed after their ears to the serene girl in the organ loft, doing the music for mass, could now give a penny for her thoughts: to find her trembling lest her outer service should distract the inner worship of her heart. "The reader who does not fancy himself the author of the beauties he recites to an admiring circle is not the last of men," says Fuseli in an aphorism Rossetti underscored in his copy of the volume, now mine. Congruous complacencies presented themselves as dangers to the Parisian maiden, sweet of voice, shown in the 'Récit d'une Sœur.' These fitting French girls, despite gesture or flush, held faces inscrutable to their fellows as that of the immortal Sphinx. To the admiration of gentle readers all over Europe, Mrs. Augustus Craven, after many hesitations, removed the mask by the tardy publication of the story in 1867. The English boy, who had heard bruited about that in the heart of France there was no home, nor even the word in her tongue, found at last an ideal domesticity. Eugénie and Olga

became the adopted sisters of a multitude of brothers who had never seen their faces—those faces still gazing out of rows on rows of miniatures in the now tenantless apartment of Mrs. Craven in Paris.

Pauline Craven's life bears large upon it the hand of French history. The fortunes of the Bourbons were those also of her family. Because her father, the Count de la Ferronnays, went into banishment with the royal house, she had an English birthplace—Manchester Street, London. After the Restoration the Count went as ambassador to St. Petersburg, and there Pauline first met the future wife of her brother Albert, Alexandrine d'Alopeus—the wife who confesses to "just ten days' possession of all imagined joy on earth." The flush on her husband's cheek, thus early in their honeymoon, was that of a rapid consumption; love and death were dovetailed together with indistinguishable delirium. It is Alexandrine's diary which forms the nucleus of the 'Sister's Story,' a diary to which a closely contrasting foil is now supplied by that of Marie Bashkirtseff. There were conveniences of travel for Royalists in rule to set against the hardships of flight and exile in less prosperous times; and when the health of Pauline's father required a stay in Italy, he was transferred to Rome as minister in 1830. There it was that he heard of his master's fall, involving his own. He lived at Naples and elsewhere before being free to return to France. It was to circumstances connected with his death that his family, and the Catholic world generally, attributed that conversion of Père Ratisbonne from Judaism to Christianity which made much talk at the time, and which supplies Thackeray with an allusion. "A friend," writes Clive to Pendennis,

"who belongs to the old religion, took me, last week, into a church where the Virgin lately appeared in person to a Jewish gentleman, flashed down upon him from heaven in light and splendour celestial, and, of course, straightway converted him. My friend made me look at the picture, and, kneeling down beside me, I know prayed with all his honest heart that the truth might shine down upon me too; but I saw no glimpse of heaven at all, I saw but a poor picture, an altar with blinking candles, a church hung with tawdry strips of red and white calico. The good, kind W. went away, humbly saying 'that such might have happened again if Heaven so willed it.' I could not but feel a kindness and admiration for the good man. I know his works are made to square with his faith, that he dines on a crust, lives as chastely as a hermit, and gives his all to the poor."

Pauline de la Ferronnays married Mr. Augustus Craven in 1834. The ideal of Fanny Kemble, he was a man of many tastes, experiences, and resources. Leaving the army for diplomacy, he lived in Lisbon, Brussels, Naples, and London, where he had a much frequented house in Berkeley Square. In his later years he was an authority on such subjects as the authorship of the 'Imitation'—subjects which indicate that he had made his wife's religion his own; and he edited the French version of the Prince Consort's life. Rome was a city of ill omen to the family. There, where her father had heard the news which drove him finally into private life, Mrs. Craven's husband heard the sudden tidings that he had lost his entire fortune. That was in 1870, the year of the Vatican Council, when Mrs. Craven's *salon* had been thronged by all that was most free and brilliant in French, English, and Roman clerical society. Perhaps few people could so well dispense with fortune, for the Cravens had no children, innumerable friends, and inalienable titles to distinction. Mr. Craven was the grandson of the Margravine of Ansbach, and, despite the bar sinister to which it would be affectation not to allude, he obtained an annuity from his grandmother's revenues. To supplement this pension, poor enough, was one of Mrs. Craven's motives in publishing her subsequent books: sometimes perhaps a disproportionate motive. Her 'Story of a Soul' and her 'Fleurange' de-

rived their main chance of fame from the fact that they were written by the author of the 'Sister's Story.' Her life of Lady Georgiana Fullerton was, besides, a tribute of affection to perhaps her closest friend; and it is a coincidence that she died almost simultaneously with Earl Granville, between whom and herself had existed friendly relations going far into the past. She was the compiler of a volume of religious meditations, for, as became the author of the 'Sister's Story,' she was a devout Christian, while being at the same time, to her finger tips, a woman of the world. It is this combination of qualities which will give a character to her biography. After her husband's death in 1884 she planned a memoir of her own life, to be entitled 'Chemin Parcouru.' This doubtless will be placed in the hands of some friend with literary skill, such as Mrs. Bishop, for a biography. Her literary executor is, however, her nephew, Count Albert de Mun.

Mrs. Craven always wrote in French, and though it is commonly said of her that she knew English perfectly, yet alien accent was present in her speech and English idiom absent from her writing. No Frenchwoman—least of all Mrs. Craven herself—could be satisfied with such proficiency as hers in English. She wrote it readily and fluently, but in looking over a letter from her I find such sentences as this in which she calls books like her own the "counter-poison to the deadly poison so abundantly swallowed by women of all classes; for there is much talent everywhere in the literary world, but purity of thought almost nowhere." She was too correct a judge of her own powers to set them to what they could not perform. "I am too well aware," she says in a letter to me, "of the difficulty of writing even in my own language to think of attempting it in one which I love and know pretty well, but can write only just well enough to be intelligible. This is enough for my friends, but would certainly not satisfy even the least fastidious reader." A similar sensitiveness towards the French language English writers have not always shown.

W. M.

SALE.

THE sale of the library of that well-known antiquary the late Mr. Roach Smith by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge on the 7th inst. was attended by a large gathering of the deceased's friends eager to secure some relic. The books, as a natural consequence, sold remarkably well, many quite unimportant works realizing considerable prices. The principal lots contested were: The Numismatic Journal, not quite perfect, 16*l.* Smith's Collectanea Antiqua, 29*l.* British Antiquities, illustrated by engravings, &c., collected by Mr. Smith, 21*l.* 16*l.* The remainder of the Collectanea, with copper-plates and woodcuts, 68*l.* 10*s.* Mr. Roach Smith's collection of coins and antiquities will be sold by Messrs. Sotheby late in the season.

THE MEMOIRS OF JOHN MURRAY.

In reading these volumes, which have interested me greatly, I have made a few notes for which I would ask your hospitality. The story of the relations between the houses of Murray and Constable, which was told in Constable's 'Life,' is here told over again, but with a difference, not of facts assuredly, but of presentation. In Constable's 'Life' there is more, perhaps, of Murray's obligations to Constable; here it is just a little the other way about. If the two versions be read together it will be seen that the favours were pretty equally divided. About 1808, when the first rupture took place, both publishers were carrying on their businesses by the aid of accommodation bills; and when the reconciliation took place in 1810 it was at the instance of Murray, who was hard pressed and sought the aid of his old friend

(see 'Arch. Constable and his Literary Correspondents,' i. 383 *et seq.*) It would not be amiss if this portion of Murray's 'Memoirs' were rewritten. Nothing could be taken from his fair fame, and history would be the gainer. Both men were heroes, and never ceased to love and respect each other as each deserved even in the midst of their quarrels. This is so charmingly illustrated by the following letter ('Constable,' i. 382) that one is a little surprised not to find it reproduced here. It was written by Murray at a time when business correspondence was suspended between the two firms, and is addressed to Constable's *firm*, to announce the birth of "John Murray III," still happily amongst us:—

London, April 16th, 1808, Saturday afternoon, 2 o'clock.

DEAR SIRS.—Presuming upon old attachments, I cannot resist the satisfaction of informing you that Mrs. Murray presented me with a fine boy a few minutes ago, and that both mother and infant are doing well.

There is much about William Gifford in these volumes, and something is done to whitewash him. But it is only whitewashing, and no excuse is offered for the outrages he committed by his own pen and the pen of others on men who had the misfortune to differ from him in opinion. A distinction is drawn between what he wrote and what he merely edited, but it is no real distinction, for Gifford pulled his contributors' articles about until he had made them thoroughly his own. The monument to his housekeeper is mentioned here (i. 263), and in a footnote appended it is stated that "Hazlitt published a cruel and libellous pamphlet in 1819, entitled 'A Letter to William Gifford,' in which he hinted that some improper connexion had subsisted between" Gifford and his housekeeper. The 'Letter' was no more cruel and libellous than the attacks which provoked it, for Hazlitt and Gifford were well matched as masters in the art of Billingsgate; but if there is in the 'Letter' any "hint" of the kind mentioned, it has escaped my eye. The note goes on to say that "Gifford never took any notice of these libellous attacks upon him. He held that secrecy between himself and the contributors to the *Quarterly* was absolutely necessary." This merely means that he did not disown such and such an article which had been erroneously attributed to him; and there was no merit in taking that perfectly obvious course. But he took his revenge all the same, and did not spare, and in a way which often disgusted his friends as much as it irritated his enemies.

Of Gifford's treatment of Lamb one hardly knows what to think. No notice is taken in these 'Memoirs' of Lamb's mangled review of 'The Excursion,' but Gifford's attack on him in connexion with Ford's 'Broken Heart' is mentioned (i. 200), and his letter to Southey excusing himself for having called Lamb a "poor maniac" is printed, Dr. Smiles being evidently under the impression that it had not already been given in Southey's 'Life and Correspondence' (v. 151). Gifford's vehement protestations that he never heard of Lamb before and knew nothing of any tendency to insanity in his family certainly have the ring of sincerity, and they satisfied Southey. But if we are to accept Gifford's disclaimer, what must we think of the character of the man who could be reckless enough to write the words he did about a man of whom he knew nothing, and about whom he could have learnt everything from Barron Field, who, we are told by Dr. Smiles, was Gifford's collaborator in the composition of the article? This intimation respecting Barron Field is very significant, for the article appeared in the *Quarterly* for December, 1811, after Field and Lamb had been working together for at least a year in Leigh Hunt's short-lived *Reflector*, the last number of which bore the same date as this issue of the *Quarterly*.

Gifford's imputation of insanity was much more particular and insistent than the single

sentence given by Dr. Smiles would indicate, and the whole passage, which I have never seen quoted in full, should be read alongside of his exculpatory letter to Southey:—

"He [Weber] has polluted his pages with the blasphemies of a poor maniac [Lamb] who, it seems, once published some detached scenes of the 'Broken Heart.' For this unfortunate creature, any feeling mind will feel an apology in his calamitous situation—but for Mr. Weber we know not where the warmth of his friends [this was evidently meant for Scott] will seek either palliation or excuse."

Is this reiterated imputation of insanity explained away by these words?—

"Not choosing to attribute it [Lamb's note to Ford] to folly, because I deserved that charge for Weber, I unhappily in the present case ascribed it to madness; for which I pray God to forgive me, since the blow has fallen heavily where I really thought it would not be felt. I considered Lamb as a thoughtless scribbler, who, in circumstances of ease, amused himself by writing upon any subject."

So this mighty critic had read Lamb's 'Specimens,' and considered it the work of a thoughtless scribbler!

I have still a word or two to say on Southey and Coleridge as they appear in these 'Memoirs.'

J. D. C.

REMINISCENCES OF THACKERAY.

ON lately reverting to an article in the *Athenæum* of the 21st of February upon the new 'Life of Thackeray,' it occurred to me that I might readily substantiate the assertion that the author of 'Vanity Fair' was residing in Young Street during the Christmas season of 1848, by the production of a letter to myself. I am in the possession of one, dated "Kensington, Dec 24, 1848," on too personal a matter to be of general interest, but full of that loving-kindness which, not more in quaint mode of expression than in genuine friendliness, is so characteristic of the writer. Beneath the original letter there is also, in the page of an album now before me, a visiting card on which is lithographed, in small characters, "Mr. Thackeray, 13, Young Street, Kensington Square," and written, in unmistakable handwriting, above the name, "Capt. Swankey," with, below the name, "A drum. Tuesday, July 18." This date, I have reason to know, belongs also to the same year, and is, moreover, that of the thirty-seventh anniversary of Thackeray's birth.

Thus far in reference to questions which have been raised as to dates and places. Having ventured, however, to touch upon a theme of interest to the majority of your readers, I am sorely tempted to add a few notes bearing upon it, which may be considered as apart from anything hitherto written, inasmuch as they are quite independently recorded.

My earliest recollections of Thackeray go back to the "thirties" of the present century—say 1833-4—when he, a young man of two or three and twenty, was looked upon by me, a boy of fourteen or fifteen, as a sort of good genius whose presence shed brightness over my out-of-school existence. He would sketch for me the very figures I delighted to contemplate, take me to the places I delighted to be taken to, and make himself the pleasantest of companions, although the difference of age was just a sufficient cause, in the estimation of most men, to bring about a directly opposite result. As an instance of his artistic tastes and capabilities, I remember walking with him one day when his thoughts were almost wholly engaged on the so-called "African Roscius"—a Mr. Ida Aldridge, whom he had seen on the previous night in 'Othello.' He led me into a lithographer's (in or near Cornhill), drew from recollection the somewhat singular, but truthful figure with which his brain was haunted, and had, at once, several copies struck off for sale. At the sight of these, exposed afterwards in the shop windows, I felt a sort of boyish pride in the consciousness of having assisted, as it were, at their production.

But I am not aware that any recreative

pleasure experienced by me in after years can be compared to that which I derived from being treated by him to a *tête-à-tête* dinner in the City and then taken to the Adelphi Theatre, in those days a specially attractive resort to many men and women and *all* boys. It had a charming representative of domestic heroines in Mrs. Yates; a splendid Frenchman and "part" actor in this lady's husband, the able manager; a pair of admirably contrasted and excellent *farceurs* in John Reeve and Buckstone; and a simply unrivalled "villain" in Mr. O. Smith. All these were to the fore on the night in question, when the performances consisted of the popular 'Victorine' and an adaptation of Fenimore Cooper's 'Bravo.' Much as I enjoyed the occasion from sheer boyish love of the theatre, I feel sure that my older and more experienced guide was almost equally amused and interested—my own appreciation of the treat throwing a certain weight into the scale.

Years passed; it was my lot to enter the service of the Honourable East India Company and join a native regiment in Madras, returning on medical certificate to England in 1846. This was some months before the appearance of part i. of 'Vanity Fair'—when, indeed, I had only discovered that Mr. "Michael Angelo Titmarsh" was the sympathetic friend of my boyhood by the likeness in *Fraser's Magazine*. It so happened that shortly after arrival in London I was invited to dine with a gentleman in Brompton; and here I unexpectedly met Thackeray, now a rising star in the literary world. The meeting was most grateful to me, and I may say that he showed himself unaffectedly glad to recognize his quondam boy acquaintance. Indeed, the next morning I received his invitation to dinner, the letter concluding with the assurance that his maid should walk home with me, "with a lantern," and signed "Your affectionate Aunt."

I saw much of him from this period for the remainder of my leave in England, and when I was orderly officer at the Company's Military College, Addiscombe, in 1847-48. Here, in the quarters allotted to me, he once came down to pass a day or two. My impression is that he did not long remain *incognito*, and that there was a certain slight unsteadiness evinced by the cadets, who must have recognized him when he accompanied me to chapel in the evening. But one circumstance in connexion with the visit to Addiscombe recalls itself distinctly to my mind. He expressed a wish to see some of the rooms in the Governor's house—or mansion, as it was usually styled. One, a bed-room, he entered and examined with curious interest. Suddenly he said something in low voice which caused me to turn towards him. I observed that he was much affected and made a hurried movement to the door. An explanation of the incident was soon afforded. The elder Mrs. Thackeray had, by a second marriage, become the wife of Major Carmichael Smyth, a distinguished officer of engineers, who had been for sometime Governor of Addiscombe College. Her son William, when quite a youth, had resided with her and his stepfather at the last-named institution, and now chanced to be revisiting the familiar locality. Coming into his mother's sleeping apartment, he had soon recognized the old-fashioned bedstead; and there were possibly portraits or other objects which helped to intensify the vividness of the retrospect. Those only who have cared to understand a temperament not always easy of interpretation will understand this illustration of one of its phases, however simple and commonplace it may appear to the outside world.

During these same two years he dined with me once or twice at the Oriental Club; and from this corner of Hanover Square I accompanied him on one of those night rambles to stray places of entertainment which furnished material for a series of papers in *Punch*. We went, if I remember rightly, to the Grecian Saloon in the

City Road, and other establishments where music and melodrama—one or both—found a home untrammelled by the legislation of any County Council. What he approved in this kind of thing was its freedom from conventional restraint. His enjoyment of it, if any, was derived from the contemplation of the crowd around him. But he had a duty to fulfil in taking notes of his surroundings, and turning them to account.

I have no record to show how often I was in Young Street, whether of my own will or by invitation; but I shall never forget the "drum" to which allusion has already been made. My kind host paid me as much attention as though I had been a stranger of distinction, introducing me not only to the greater intellectual luminaries, but to charming and agreeable young ladies also. To talk with Macready; to listen to Adelaide Kemble (Mrs. Sartoris); to mingle in groups of well-known *literati*—all this was enough to turn the head of an Indian subaltern, the main reason of whose despatch to the East had been the surreptitious publication of a tragedy in five acts!

One call that I made is worthy of mention, if only as an illustration of Thackeray's indisputable good nature. The period was that of the Addiscombe vacation, when the college authorities (including orderly officers) and cadets were with their friends in London or elsewhere. Among those over whom I had to exercise during term a quasi-military supervision was a bright, rosy-cheeked youth known to me by special introduction, with whose family my own was on visiting terms. This cadet—in after years a smart horse-artillery officer, and now doing excellent public service in our great metropolis—had conceived so great an admiration for the author of 'Vanity Fair' that he would have esteemed his acquaintance a richer boon than the companionship of emperor or sultan. Hearing that I was going to call on the forenoon of a certain day in Young Street, he instantly proposed to accompany me. From natural reasons—chiefly, perhaps, because a stranger's presence might not be acceptable to a busy man in working hours—I was disinclined to accept the proposal, and sought to defer the matter to a fitter opportunity. Objection and remonstrance were vain; and although I had put a determined verbal veto on his appearance, the eager boy was on the step as I knocked at the honoured door, and entered with me so soon as it was opened. "Mr. Thackeray was at home," but had not risen. I was informed, however, that he would see me if I would go to his room. The invitation was accepted; I am uncertain what I actually said to my young friend in the endeavour to dissuade him from following me, but whatever it was, it was unheeded. In an instant he was at my side in the bedroom! There is, at this moment, a vague, but never to be quite effaced impression on my mind, of Mr. Michael Angelo Titmarsh in bed (MS. of 'Pendennis' in hand), surveying, with quiet, but genuine surprise, the forms of his two visitors, one of whom was a perfect stranger. My explanation was given and understood. That he was not offended at the intrusive incident may be concluded from the fact that he then and there gave me a copy of 'Vanity Fair,' then just completed, writing my name on the title-page, with the addition "from an old friend W. M. T."

I had the privilege, as his private guest, of sitting next to Thackeray at the dinner of the Royal Literary Fund on the 20th of May, 1848. He had to make a speech in returning thanks for a toast to the "Novelists of England," with whom his name had thus early been coupled. It may be that I was not rendering him the best of the poor services in my power by keeping his glass filled with sherry up to the time of rising, but I knew that he wanted encouragement—had not what may be termed "graduated" in speech-making, and was actually nervous. The chairman of the night was the Duke of Northumberland, a nobleman of dis-

tinction in learned as well as aristocratic society, and when he had concluded one of the preliminary addresses appertaining to his office, Thackeray whispered: "There, that's just what I should like to say—not too much nor too little, all to the point," or to this effect. Presently Mr. Adolphus was on his legs, and, having disposed of the novelists *en masse*, spoke thus of Thackeray:—"In his presence I can only say that every one of us will rejoice in paying any compliment in our power to one of the most brilliant and, if I may so express myself, one of the most provokingly graceful and adroit writers." Great applause here ensued, and the sentence was left unfinished; but other pleasant things were said, and Thackeray rose to respond. His words were few but bright, straightforward, and utterly void of dulness—consequently the speech was a success. When we broke up, the president and Thackeray had some conversation together, after which I walked with the latter and another friend westward from the Freemasons' Hall, parting company at the (old) Garrick Club.

Although at the house in Onslow Square during one or both of my brief visits home in 1855 and 1856, I am too doubtful of dates to dwell upon any special circumstances connected therewith. Service with the Turkish troops in the Eastern Crimea caused me, moreover, to make comparatively little use in either year of my Indian leave in England. It was perhaps here, however, that I remember meeting at dinner a lady from Burmah who, while sitting on the left of our host and telling him stories of that country and its people, frequently used a word which he was (on insufficient grounds) presumed to understand. This word puzzled Thackeray, who at last, seeing that it had so much to do in elucidating the narrative, asked, with that genuine laugh which would find its way in spite of conventional restriction: "Now tell me, what is a *phingy*?"

I think it was in 1862 that, being again at home, I dined at the house in Kensington Palace Gardens, and met there a most charming party, among them many whom one would have chosen of all others to meet, and not any whom one did not care to meet. This must have been in the days of the great International Exhibition, for one or more of the foreign commissioners were present. In the following year I was about making a short trip to America before returning to India, when I met Thackeray in the British Museum and told him of my intention, adding that an introduction from him would be highly prized. Instantly he wrote me two letters to American friends on the printed slips available for requisitions in the Library. The facsimile of one of these will be found in Mr. Reed's interesting memoir ('Haud Immemor,' Philadelphia, privately printed, 1864), p. 28.

May I quote, in conclusion, a passage or two from an article on the 'Newcomes,' published in the *Bombay Quarterly Review* for April, 1857, to demonstrate how the great novelist and humourist was appreciated in India?

"Mr. Thackeray's earnestness shows that he has faith in his characters. Let us lend the same faith to the novelist in reading his book; and thank him, at the same time, for presenting us with so pleasing a picture obtained from a study of our social selves at home. It must not be concealed, however, that very many readers fall into the error of believing Mr. Thackeray to be a Diogenes at all times. They detect a lurking cynicism, a vein of depreciation, a continuous sarcasm in all that he commits to print. They look upon Colonel Newcome's simple-mindedness as purposely derogatory to his cloth; his ignorance on literary matters conveys a hard hit at the inanity of a military life in India; his affair with the Bundelcund bank is almost insulting to the body of field officers at large. Such critics as these must be classed with a portion of the community at home who regard the author of 'Vanity Fair' as one always talking at them, and who consequently never read more than the first few chapters of his serials—who slight his unique annuals and lectures—and know nothing of his early contributions to *Fraser*.

and *Punch*....If it were indeed desirable to cavil with any one who affords such delight to the many, the general tone, style, and tendency of the 'Newcomes,' in its light of an 'Indian character' novel, do not appear to us open to legitimate criticism. Weigh the relative merits of Lord Steyne, on behalf of the British aristocracy, and Colonel Newcome for the Indian army, and to whom would the palm of merit be awarded? So also would the latter carry the day against the individual types of almost every class described by Mr. Thackeray. Do we desire a more strictly intellectual hero, a more soaring, profound, and less single-hearted reasoner? Such as these, it should be remembered, are too ambitious to be contented with four-and-thirty years' regimental service, and must rather be sought for amid residents at native courts, Governors' agents, or political superintendents, than amid the gallant soldiers represented by Colonel Newcome. Social British India is safe in the hands of our author. His smile, in introducing us, is nothing more than his natural fun and sense of the ludicrous exhibited in general contact with society; and should his new serial, or the next one, or indeed any one yet in embryo, be fated to contain the full-length portrait of another East India Company's officer, we have no more fears for the credit of the service than we have for the truth of the artist's pencil."

As the *Bombay Quarterly* is not mentioned with the *Calcutta Review* in the bibliography attached to the 'Life of Thackeray' recently published in the "Great Writers" series, it may be well to state, in conclusion, that the number of that periodical for January, 1855, has a long and well-considered article on 'Vanity Fair,' 'Pendennis,' and 'Esmond,' as well as the one in a later year from which the above extract has been made.

F. J. G.

Literary Gossip.

WHILE the third edition of Mr. Henley's 'Book of Verses,' which is now at the binder's, is identical with the second excepting in the matter of certain changes in typography and punctuation, the paper and the binding are improved. Mr. Henley is preparing a second edition of 'Views and Reviews,' and he hopes to publish a second book of verse early next year.

MR. JOHN LANE, whose bibliography of Mr. George Meredith's works has been received with general approval, is now engaged upon a bibliography of works illustrated by Mr. Walter Crane. He will be glad to hear (care of Mr. E. Mathews, Vigo Street) from any possessors of scarce early work of Mr. Crane.

VOLS. I. AND VI. of 'The Poets and Poetry of the Nineteenth Century,' the voluminous work which Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. are publishing, will appear on the 13th inst. The critical articles in vol. i. devoted to the Georgian poets are mainly written by the editor, Mr. Alfred Miles. Vols. ii. and iii., devoted to the later Georgian poets, are not yet ready; nor are vols. iv. and v., which deal with Lord Tennyson, Browning, Rossetti, Dr. Hake, W. Bell Scott, and others. For the special aim of the work is to be an anthology of unusual magnitude, the text of which shall be of an accuracy so impeccable that literary men may use it as fearlessly as though they were referring to original texts. Among the poets treated in vol. vi., now in the press, are Mr. William Morris, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Robert Buchanan, Mr. Alfred Austin, Mr. Theodore Watts, Mr. Austin Dobson, and Mr. Monkhouse. The critical articles upon these are written by Mr. J. A. Symonds, Mr. Buxton Forman, Mr. Mackenzie Bell, Mr. Arthur Symons, Mr. Havelock Ellis, and others. This volume will be followed by others devoted to the later Victorian poets.

MR. PATCHETT MARTIN has written for *Murray's Magazine* an article on the late Adam Lindsay Gordon, "the poet of the Australian Bush," in which he will deal with the character and career of the man himself rather than with his poetical works. Much of the information concerning Gordon's life in Australia is from unpublished sources, supplied to the writer by dwellers in the Australian bush who knew Gordon and worked side by side with him in his varied and rough avocations.

THE next monthly meeting of the Library Association will be held on Monday at 8 p.m. in the Clapham Public Library. A paper on the formation and working of the library will be read by the librarian, Mr. J. Reed Welch.

RECENT historical investigations in America appear to threaten the literary reputation of President Jefferson. Certain documents cited in a recent biography of Edmund Randolph proved that his posthumous "Ana" contain misrepresentation of his contemporaries; and now ex-Provost Stillé, of Philadelphia, whose 'Life of John Dickinson' has just appeared, gives reasons for doubting Jefferson's claims to the authorship of the chief part of a celebrated paper. Just a year before the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the colonial Congress there was issued by that body (July 6th, 1775) a 'Declaration by the Representatives of the United Colonies' of their reasons for taking up arms. Jefferson, at the age of seventy-seven, stated that the committee appointed to draw up this paper requested him to do it, and that he did so; but that his statement was "too strong" for Dickinson, who hoped for reconciliation with England. Dickinson's paper, he says, retained four and a half paragraphs of his (Jefferson's) statement, these being the portions which excited the enthusiasm of Congress and the nation. But now the entire manuscript has been discovered, and is in the possession of the Historical Society of New York. It is wholly in the handwriting of Dickinson, the paragraphs claimed by Jefferson, printed in facsimile by Stillé, showing such numerous erasures and interpolations as to forbid the supposition that they were copied from any other paper. Dickinson was dead when Jefferson claimed the authorship of the notable passages. This discovery will probably increase the doubts about Jefferson's authorship of the Declaration of Independence, which rests on his own authority, given when all others of the committee were dead. His authorship of it was denied by a respectable newspaper in 1802, and then elicited from him no refutation. The original draft, preserved at Washington, contained two strong paragraphs animadverting on negro slavery, which were struck out by the committee. These closely resemble in phraseology portions of an anti-slavery essay by Thomas Paine, printed in a Philadelphia journal, March 8th, 1775. Though the hand of Paine does not appear in other parts of the document, it is possible that other contributors may be discovered.

'TAHITI: THE GARDEN OF THE PACIFIC' will shortly be issued by Mr. Fisher Unwin. The author, Mrs. Dora Hort, has lived in the Sandwich Islands, and is able to pre-

sent readers of her new work with authentic portraits of Queen Pomareotri and Ariifaite, her Majesty's husband.

A NEW and enlarged edition of 'The Second-hand Booksellers' Directory' will be issued by Mr. Elliott Stock next week.

MR. WALTER SCOTT will shortly issue at a popular price a volume entitled 'The Eight Hours Day,' by Mr. Sidney Webb and Mr. Harold Cox. An historical account is given of the movement in favour of shorter hours in England, the United States, Australia, and the Continent, and particulars as to the hours of labour now prevalent and the factory legislation in force. The probable economic results of a shortening of hours are investigated, and the question of overtime is explicitly dealt with. The hygienic, social, and juristic aspects of the question receive consideration, and every argument for and against an Eight Hours Bill is gone into. A bibliography of the subject will be appended.

WE regret to hear of the death—which occurred at his residence in Manchester on Saturday last—of Sir Thomas Sowler, sole proprietor of the *Manchester Courier*, which was commenced by the late Mr. Thomas Sowler, father of the deceased, in 1825. For many years Sir Thomas had been a prominent figure in the political and social world of Manchester. He was one of the originators of the free library there, and was conspicuous in promoting the volunteer movement. He was in the seventy-third year of his age.

THE annual meeting of the Chetham Society was held in Manchester last week under the presidency of Chancellor Christie, who said that at no time during its existence had the Society been in a more satisfactory state than it is at present as regards the issuing of books. Amongst the works in progress are a volume of 'Lancashire and Cheshire Wills,' edited by Mr. J. P. Earwaker; 'Notes on the Churches of Lancashire and Cheshire,' edited by the Rev. Canon Atkinson; and the 'Poems of John Byrom,' and Byrom's 'Commonplace Book,' edited by Dr. Ward, of Owens College.

MR. RUPERT SIMMS, who is compiling a 'Bibliography of Staffordshire,' desires information relative to
"the following Bishops of Lichfield:—Alfwine or Ebba, 900-924; Alfgar or Elgar, 924; Ælfage or Elfeth, 992; John Arundel, 1496; George Abbot, 1609. Also as to Lancelot Addison, Dean of Lichfield, 1683; Thomas de Adderbury, Precentor of Lichfield, 1303; William Almondeston, Archdeacon of Staffordshire, 1421, and Thomas Allen, LL.B., Archdeacon, 1722; Francis Ascherhurst, Archdeacon of Derby, 1689. And the following prebendaries:—Thomas Allestree, 1691; Sampson Alleyne, 1492; John Argentine, 1494; Philip Agard, 1502; William Ashton, 1399; Robert Ashton, 1563; Richard Ashton, 1575; John Aylmer, 1398; Edmund Audley, 1474; George Aldrich, 1663; William Aumenet, 1400; Peter de Ayleston, 1337; William de Apletree, 1339; John de Arunde, died 1331; John Auncell, 1431; and Nicholas Abel, 1329."

Mr. Simms's address is 9, Brunswick Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

THE death is announced of Dr. Morell, for many years one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and well known by

his writings on philosophical subjects—writings marked by much learning and ability. When he wrote his history of speculative philosophy in the present century, he was a disciple of the Scotch school as represented by Sir W. Hamilton; but he adopted the views of Herbart, and may be deemed the first English follower of the Göttingen professor. It was hoped that after his retirement from official work Dr. Morell would resume his literary career, but nothing has appeared from his pen.

A FRENCH translation of some of Dr. Abel's Egypto-Aryan writings will be shortly published under the title 'Introduction à l'Étude Comparative de l'Étymologie Egypto-Indoeuropéenne.'

FROM Paris comes the news of the death of the Comte de Pajol, son of Napoleon's celebrated general of cavalry, and well known as a military historian; and of M. É. de Pressensé, the erudite and eloquent theologian. The Comte de Pajol was an accomplished sculptor, and besides writing his father's life carved his statue, which he exhibited at the Salon, and which, if we mistake not, is erected at Besançon. M. de Pressensé's chief works were 'Histoire des Trois Premiers Siècles de l'Église,' which was translated into German; 'Christ: son Temps, sa Vie, son Œuvre,' which ran through several editions; and 'L'Église et la Révolution Française.'

CONTINENTAL papers report the death of the Russian poet P. A. Koslów, which occurred last month. He distinguished himself less by his original works than by his translations from English and French. His poetical versions of Byron's 'Manfred,' 'Don Juan,' and part of 'Childe Harold' have been highly spoken of.

STRANGE news comes from Constantinople that the English language has got a footing there, and of all places in the world in the girls' school at Ergad Bazar. There the young ladies were examined by H.H. Munif Pasha, the Minister of Public Instruction, who himself has revised an English grammar for use in Turkey. Some of the ladies also played on the piano. The example for the acknowledgment of this as an accomplishment for Turkish young ladies was founded on the report by a mollah as to its being adopted in the Mussulman schools in our cities of Cape Town and Graham's Town. Hitherto the chief seat of instruction in English has been in the Imperial Naval School in the Princes' Islands, in the Sea of Marmora.

SCIENCE

Handbook of Field and General Ornithology: a Manual of the Structure and Classification of Birds; with Instructions for collecting and preserving Specimens. By Prof. Elliott Coues, M.D. (Macmillan & Co.)

SOME years ago the author—then and for long afterwards better known as Dr. Elliott Coues—produced a 'Key to North American Birds,' which became a standard text-book in the United States and Canada, besides being widely known among European students of ornithology. When progress in this branch of science rendered a second edition necessary, the author presented the

world with a much larger volume, which, although bearing the same title, was practically a new work. By arrangement with the American publishers, about one-half of this later edition (with a few suitable alterations) is now put before the English public; and, although we are averse to borrowing, even from our American kinsfolk, it must be admitted that the London publishers have done wisely, for no modern work of a similar character on this side of the Atlantic can rival it.

The present volume consists of two parts. The first, entitled "Field Ornithology," contains the necessary instructions for the observation and collection of birds in their haunts as well as for their subsequent preservation. The experiences of a collector who, as an army surgeon, has had occasion to traverse a large area of the United States, and who, often on the Indian frontier, literally carried on "a thirty years' war" in the interests of ornithology, can hardly fail to be practical; and Prof. Coues has, moreover, a pleasant and chatty way of conveying to his readers the information he has acquired. Some of the details are, perhaps, unnecessary for Englishmen; but it must be borne in mind that these minute directions were originally drawn up for Americans, among whom acquaintance with woodcraft, and even with firearms, is by no means so general as it is with us. Unless his lot is cast in the country, when his attentions are almost exclusively directed to game, a young American has to work too hard to have time for much "gunning"; and it is to encourage those who have opportunities to make the best use of them that this portion is designed. Our countrymen, however, will be none the worse for such reminders as that of the desirability of collecting female specimens of birds, instead of merely selecting the brighter-plumaged males; or for the remarks on the necessity of quietness in movement, the advantage of standing still at times, and the art of approaching shy birds. These, as we can testify from experience, are thoroughly practical, and want of success is usually the consequence of their neglect.

In the second part, which treats of general ornithology, with an outline of the structure and classification of birds, the author is at his best. He is especially clear in his enunciation of the value of certain facts which, strange as it may appear, require to be "hammered into" many persons, who, though not altogether tyros, are undoubtedly deficient either in power of ratiocination or in sense of proportion, or in both. As an example of Prof. Coues's way of teaching his pupils to think, we will abridge the following. He is speaking of the valuation of characters:—

"Why is the possession of a backbone such a 'fundamental' character that it is used to establish one of the primary branches of the animal kingdom? It is not because so many millions of creatures possess it, but because it was introduced so early in the evolutionary process, and because its introduction led to the most profound modification of the whole structure of the animals which became possessed of a vertebral column. Why is the possession by a bird of bi-concave vertebrae so significant? Not because all modern birds have saddle-shaped vertebrae, but because to have bi-concave vertebrae is to be *quod hoc* fish-like. Why is presence (or absence) of teeth so important?

Not that teeth served these old birds better than a horny beak serves modern ones, but because teeth are a reptilian character. Obviously, to be fish-like or reptile-like is to be by so much unbird-like; the degree of difference thus indicated is enormous; and a character that indicates such degree of difference is proportionally 'important' or 'fundamental';—just what we were after.....As a matter of fact, it seems that characters of all sorts are to be estimated *chronologically*. For, if animals have come to be what they are by any process that took time to be accomplished, the characters earliest established are likely to be the most fundamental ones, upon the introduction of which the most important train of consequences ensue. Feathers, for example, as the Archaeopteryx teaches us, were in full bloom in the Jurassic period, and they are still the most characteristic possession of birds: all birds have them; they are a class-character."

Very simple, no doubt, but neatly put. Again, the following, if somewhat poetical, is decidedly happy:—

"This outbreak, as it were, of birds upon the modern scene, is like the nearly simultaneous bursting into bloom of a mass of flowers at the end of one branch of the Sauropsidan stem."

Into the details of structure and classification we need not enter; but in addition to general praise of the work, we may say that as regards the many illustrations given in these pages, the source is duly acknowledged when they have been borrowed.

Only one note of dissent must be sounded, and that is as regards the "law of priority" in nomenclature. Prof. Coues merely says, "The *first* name given since 1758 is to be retained and used." To that British ornithologists cannot agree:—1766, the date of the twelfth edition of Linnaeus's 'Systema Naturæ,' is our starting-point. It is needless to give the reasons, for they are well known to all systematists on both sides of the water; nor should we even have taken the trouble to enter a protest if this work had not been put forward as suited to the British reader. In this respect, and in this only, it is unpalatable.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

MR. POGSON, Government Astronomer at Madras, has recently issued another volume (the last appeared in 1888), containing the results of the meridian observations of fixed stars at the Madras Observatory in the years 1868, 1869, and 1870. The observations with the transit circle were commenced in 1862, and the present is the third volume of results which has been published. The Astronomer, as may be supposed, greatly regrets the unavoidable delay in its appearance, and remarks that "it would have been better to have published all the separate results for the twenty-six years, 1862 to 1887, in a more condensed form, in one or two volumes, instead of extending them over eight; but in India little is left to one's own discretion, and the publication of the results of three years at a time was an order which had to be obeyed." The whole of the work has been carried on, as before, with the assistance of two native observers.

The fifth and sixth volumes of the *Annals of the Leyden Observatory* have recently been published, the Director, Prof. H. G. van de Sande Bakhuyzen, expressing his regret at the delay in their appearance, which arises from the pressure of work necessary in reducing current and past observations. The fifth volume gives the results of a large number of zone observations of stars situated between 29° 50' and 35° 10' north declination. The sixth con-

tains a discussion of the zenith distances of other stars observed at Leyden during the years 1863 to 1874.

The Report of the proceedings at the Wolsingham Observatory (Rev. T. E. Espin) for last year is interesting, and shows a continuous record of useful work. The discoveries made in its course have from time to time been announced in the circulars sent to astronomers.

In our "Astronomical Notes" for the 28th of February it was mentioned that Mr. Barnard had discovered with the great Lick telescope a bright nebula close to the star Merope in the Pleiades, which he stated had never been photographed, probably because an exposure sufficient to secure an impression of the nebula would so over-expose the star that its light would coalesce with that of the nebula. Prof. Pritchard, however, writes to No. 3024 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* that Mr. Barnard is under a misconception in supposing that the nebula in question has not been photographed. This has, in fact, repeatedly been done, and in particular the nebula, which is simply the brightest portion of widely distributed luminous matter near the star, was plainly impressed upon a photographic plate taken at Oxford on January 29th, 1889, after an exposure of 120 minutes.

In a recently published and generally excellent little work by M. Guillemin on 'Les Planètes et leurs Satellites,' forming a portion of the "Petite Encyclopédie Populaire," when giving an account of Saturn's ring and Cassini's discovery of its principal division, there occurs (p. 200) the following note:—"D'après les auteurs anglais, il paraît que, dix ans plus tôt (en 1865), l'astronome W. Ball aurait, à l'aide d'une excellente lunette de 38 pieds de distance focale, reconnu que l'anneau était double." It is now nearly ten years since such a statement appeared in any English author. Suspicion was first thrown upon it by Mr. Lynn in 1880, and the misconception on which it was based was fully explained in 1882. Several letters upon the subject appeared in the *Observatory*, the *Athenæum*, and other papers.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

CAPT. A. C. YATE, who visited Tashkent and Samarkand last year as a member of an excursion party organized by the Wagon-Lits Company of Paris, now supplies an interesting account of his experiences to the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*. His paper is well worth reading.

The *Geographische Blätter* of Bremen publishes an interesting account of the forests of the principality of Lippe, which deals very ably with the physical condition of the forest lands and their economical exploitation. About 25 per cent. of the principality is covered with forest, of which 53 per cent. belongs to the State, whilst 37 per cent. is private property, and 10 per cent. the property of the towns.

Mr. Joseph Thomson is reported to have returned to Blantyre after a most successful journey through Katanga or Msiri's country, in the course of which he not only made explorations of some importance, but also succeeded in inducing many chiefs to place themselves under the protection of the South Africa Company. Mr. Thomson's companion, Mr. Grant, is now on the way home to England. Simultaneously with this information we learn that the whole of this region has been surrendered by the Congo State to a "Katanga Company," although no Belgian explorer or officer of that state has ever set foot within it.

Dr. A. Voeltzkow publishes in the *Zeitschrift für Erdkunde* an interesting report on a visit which he and Mr. Knott paid to the Kinkoni district, to the east of Bembatoka Bay in Madagascar, in August last. The district is quite independent of the Hova government, and had not previously been visited by Europeans. The lake of Kinkoni is drained by the Mahavari.

A river, Manzarai, which figures very prominently on our maps of Madagascar, does not exist.

The next "Deutsche Geographentag" will be held in 1893 at Stuttgart.

SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—*March 25.*—Dr. A. Geikie, President, in the chair.—Dr. F. W. Edridge-Green, Messrs. R. E. W. Berrington, R. Hay, H. H. Howorth, E. W. Read, and F. E. Rooper were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read: "Notes on Nautili and Ammonites," by Mr. S. S. Buckman;—"On the Drifts of Flamborough Head," by Mr. G. W. Lamplugh;— and "On a Phosphatic Chalk with *Belemnites quadrata* at Taplow," by Mr. A. Strahan (communicated by permission of the Director-General of the Geological Survey).

LINNEAN.—*April 2.*—Prof. Stewart, President, in the chair.—The Rev. E. N. Langham and Messrs. W. D. Wickes, H. S. Stretefield, and R. W. Phillips were admitted Fellows of the Society.—The Rev. Prof. Henslow exhibited specimens of *Oxalis cornuta*, Thunberg, a native of the Cape of Good Hope, and gave an interesting account of its introduction into the countries bordering the Mediterranean and the Canaries and Madeira, tracing its present northern distribution so far as he had been able to ascertain it.—A discussion followed, in which Messrs. A. W. Bennett, C. B. Clarke, W. Bateson, and B. D. Jackson took part.—Mr. A. B. Rendle, having examined the specimens of "Monchona," exhibited by Mr. Christy at a previous meeting, expressed the opinion that this trade product was the preserved fruit of a palm, belonging to a species apparently undescribed. It was stated somewhat vaguely by the importer to have come from the South Pacific. Mr. Rendle also exhibited another specimen of an orange within an orange which differed from that shown at a former meeting in that the inner orange possessed a rind and was not entirely enveloped by the outer one.—The President exhibited an abnormal specimen of a butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) possessing five wings, or two hinder wings on one side.—Mr. W. Bateson gave the substance of a paper by himself and Miss A. Bateson on variations in floral symmetry of certain plants with irregular corollas. He described the variations in number of parts and of symmetry occurring in the flowers of Gladiolus, Veronica, Linaria, and Streptocarpus, and showed that although in these varieties there is considerable departure from the normal form, yet the resulting variety is often as definite as the normal form and not less perfect in symmetry. It was suggested that the variations by which specific forms of symmetry are produced may also be thus distinct, not of necessity involving transitional forms, and, for example, that the process by which the four-petaled symmetry of Veronica arose from that of a five-petaled ancestor was, perhaps, similar in kind to that by which the three-petaled variety of Veronica is formed from the type, transitional forms being in such cases rare, or even absent.—A discussion followed, in which the President, Prof. Henslow, Messrs. C. B. Clarke and A. W. Bennett took part.—The Secretary read a paper by Mr. H. N. Ridley, of Singapore, on two new genera of orchids from the East Indies.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—*April 1.*—Prof. R. Meldola, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. G. A. Booth and Mr. W. Manger were elected Fellows.—Capt. H. J. Elwes showed a small collection of butterflies from Laggan Alberta, North-West Territory of Canada. Amongst them were *Colias elis*, Streck, (which seemed to be very close to, if not identical with, *C. hecla* of Europe), and *Argynnis alberta*, W. H. Edw. The resemblance between the butterflies of this locality and those found on the Fells of Lapland was striking, some of the species being identical, and others closely allied. Capt. Elwes said that it was another proof, if one were wanted, of the uniformity of the butterflies found throughout the boreal region in the Old and New Worlds.—Mr. G. C. Champion exhibited several insects recently received from Hobart, Tasmania. The collection included a curious species of Forficulidae, from the summit of Mount Wellington; two mimetic species of Edemeraidae, belonging to the genus *Pseudolytus*, Guér., and the corresponding Lycidae, which were found with them; also specimens of both sexes of *Lamprima rutilans*, Er.—Mr. N. M. Richardson exhibited a specimen of *Zygaea filipendulae* with five wings; four specimens of *Gelechia ocellatella*, including a pink variety, bred from *Beta maritima*; four specimens of *Tinea subtilella*, a species new to Britain, taken last August in the Isle of Portland; also specimens of *Nepticula aromarginella*, a species new to Britain, bred from larvae taken

near Weymouth on bramble.—Mr. C. Fenn exhibited a series of *Teniacampa instabilis*, which had been bred out of doors during the recent severe weather. They were all bred from ova laid by the same female, and many of them were of an abnormally pale colour. Mr. Fenn said that, according to Mr. Merrifield's theory, these pale specimens, in consequence of the temperature to which they had been subjected in the pupal state, ought to have been very dark.—Mr. Jenner-Weir said he had never before seen any specimens of so light a colour.—Mr. W. Dannatt exhibited a butterfly belonging to the genus *Crenis*, recently received from the Lower Congo. He said he believed the species was undescribed.—Mr. G. A. J. Rothney sent for exhibition several specimens of a species of ant (*Sima rufa-nigra*) from Bengal, together with specimens of a small sand wasp (*Rhinopsis ruficornis*) and a spider (*Salticus*), both of which closely mimicked the ant. Mr. Rothney also communicated a short paper on the subject of these ants and the mimicking sand wasps and spiders, entitled "Further Notes on Indian Ants."—Mr. G. C. Champion read a paper entitled "On the Coleoptera collected by Mr. J. J. Walker, R.N., in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar, with Descriptions of New Species."—At the conclusion of the meeting a discussion ensued, in which Mr. Kirby, Capt. Elwes, Mr. M'Lachlan, Mr. Jenner-Weir, Dr. Sharp, and Mr. Crowley took part.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—*April 7.*—Sir J. Coode, President, in the chair.—It was announced that six Associate Members had been transferred to the class of Members, and that fifteen students had been admitted.—The monthly ballot resulted in the election of four Members and of thirty Associate Members.—The paper read was "On the Cost of the Generation and Distribution of Electrical Energy," by Mr. R. E. B. Crompton.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—*April 6.*—Sir J. C. Browne, Treas. and V.P., in the chair.—Right Hon. Lord Randolph Churchill, Rev. E. G. C. Parr, M.A., Dr. W. F. Hamilton, Mrs. C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey, Messrs. C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey, W. B. Barbour, W. R. Lake, T. S. Tanner, C. H. Wingfield, and L. A. Withall were elected Members.

SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS.—*April 6.*—Mr. W. N. Colam, President, in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. T. B. Lightfoot "On a Trial of a Refrigerating Machine on the Linde System."

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY.—*April 7.*—Mr. P. Le Page Renouf, President, in the chair.—The Archbishop of Canterbury was elected a vice-president.—A paper was read by Mr. J. Pollard "On the Baal and Ashtoreth Altar, discovered at Kanawat in Syria, now in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge,"—and the Rev. C. J. Ball read a paper in continuation of his researches into the relation of Accadian and Chinese ideograms.

ARISTOTELIAN.—*April 6.*—Mr. S. H. Hodgson, President, in the chair.—Mr. D. G. Ritchie read a paper "On Darwin and Hegel," his subjects being the relation between the two kinds of evolution, which might be called materialist and idealist evolution respectively. Hegel was influenced to a certain extent by the biological evolution of his day, but the "development" of which he everywhere speaks is a thought-process, not a time-process; yet in human history the thought-process appears as a time-process—most clearly so in the history of philosophy. Darwin's theory of natural selection (of course unrecognized in Hegel's "Philosophy of Nature") would remove some of the very objections that have been made against Hegel, e.g., by Prof. Seth, and would harmonize quite well with Hegel's conception of human history as a dialectic movement of thought—"the struggle for existence" appearing in its highest form as the conflict of ideas. Natural selection had restored teleology (not external teleology, of course), by explaining structures, &c., by reference to the end for which they exist, and not merely by reference to the source from which they come. This would obviate the objection Hegel made to the older evolution theories; and this conception of end (final cause) was predominant in Hegel as in Aristotle. Attention was called to certain resemblances between the two kinds of evolution as applied to ethical and political philosophy; and Hegel's formula "The real is the rational" was defended in the light of the theory of natural selection.—The paper was followed by a discussion.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Society of Arts, 8.—"The Decorative Treatment of Natural Foliage," Lecture I. Mr. H. Stannus (Cantor Lecture).
—Geographical, 8.—"Two Journeys to Se-chuan and the Tibetan Frontiers of China," Mr. A. E. Pratt.

TUES. Royal Institution, 3.—"The Geography of Africa," Mr. J. Scott Keith.
—Photographic, 8.—"Platinotype," Mr. W. Willis.
—Colonial Institute, 8.

TUES. Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on Mr. Crompton's Paper, "The Cost of the Generation and Distribution of Electrical Energy."—Society of Arts, 8.—"Decorative Plaster Work: Stucco Work," Mr. T. Robinson.

WED. Anthropological Institute, 8j.—"Types of the Early Inhabitants of Mesopotamia," Mr. T. G. Pinches.
—Meteorological, 7.—"Variations of the Rainfall at Cherrapoonjee in the Khasi Hills," Assistant Mr. H. H. Blanford; "Some Recent Rainfall Festivals in the West Indies," Mr. F. J. Brodie; "The Rainfall of February, 1890," Mr. H. S. Wilson; "Vertical Circulation of the Atmosphere in relation to the Formation of Storms," Mr. W. H. Dines.

THURS. Society of Arts, 8.—"The Sources of Petroleum and Natural Gas," Mr. W. Templeton.
—Microscopic, 8.—"New Foreign Rotifers," Surgeon V. G. Thorpe; "Additional Note on the Treatment of Diatoms by Chemical Deposits," Mr. C. H. Gill.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. 8.—"Ancient Library of Gloucester Cathedral," Mr. W. S. Brasington.

THURS. Royal Institution, 3.—"Recent Spectroscopic Investigations," Prof. Dewar.

ROYAL. 4w.

FRID. Linnean, 8.—"Lichens from Victoria," Rev. F. R. M. Wilson.
—Two New Species of *Puccinia*, Surgeon-Major A. Barclay.

SAT. Ethnological, 8.—"Antiquaries," 8.

SUND. Historical, 8.—"Selections from State Papers and Accounts illustrative of the Life of a Merchant of the Staple at London and Calais during the First Half of the Sixteenth Century," Mr. H. B. Hall.

UNIVERSITY. United Service Institution, 3.—"The Reserve Question," Col. F. J. Graves.

PHYSICAL. 5.—"A Property of Magnetic Shunts," Prof. S. P. Thompson; "An Alternating Current Influence Machine," Mr. J. Wimshurst.

SAT. Philological, 8.—"Metrical Glossaries of the Medieval Irish," Dr. W. Stokes.

SAT. Royal Institution, 9.—"Magnetic Rocks," Prof. A. W. Rücker.

SAT. Royal Institution, 3.—"The Dynamo," Prof. S. P. Thompson.

Science Gossip.

A COURSE of lectures on zoology is to be added to the curriculum of the Ladies' Department of King's College. Prof. Jeffrey Bell begins an elementary series on May 1st.

THE publication of a 'Botanisches Adressbuch' is announced from Leipzig, which will contain the names of all living botanists as well as a list of all botanical societies and journals.

THE Kew Committee of the Royal Society have commenced testing photographic lenses at the Kew Observatory.

FINE ARTS

English Bells and Bell Lore. By the late T. North. Illustrated. (Leek, Mark.)

To Mr. Thomas North we owe more information about church bells than to any Englishman since Mr. Lukis and Mr. Ellacombe took up the subject where it had been left by certain writers—men of fancy rather than of learning—in the earlier decades of the eighteenth century. It is due to the memory of one so enthusiastic and accomplished to say that but for him the history of the bells of this country would have lacked that broad basis which has been given to it by his catalogues of the specimens still remaining in various English counties. Mr. North died on Ash Wednesday, 1884, when he had just completed the volume before us, which covers a larger field than any previous work of his, and embodies the general results of his researches. Although we cannot agree with the Vicar of Leek, who edits the book, that Llanfairfechan, where Mr. North compiled it, is one of the "most congenial" localities for the task (unless, indeed, it be an advantage for a writer on campanology to be out of the sound of church bells altogether), there can be no doubt that the volume is the most generally interesting and instructive of the author's works.

The book begins with the beginning of the subject, yet Mr. North does not tell his readers how bells came to be used here at all, who first "brought them over," and what was their original form. It is not sufficient to say, as Mr. North does, that "portable hand bells were carried by the early missionaries of the Gospel to summon the people, and for the ordinary services of the Church." We may see in old pictures and carvings of

St. Anthony indications of this ancient custom. Hermits who had no audiences had bells, and were content to call themselves to church. Later on, the pictures of hermit and desert saints show the bells quaintly hanging aloft on tall poles. Here, however, the bell was used to disperse evil spirits; and although he loved bell lore, Mr. North ignored all sorts of bells which had no ecclesiastical, or rather church, functions. Consequently, although he mentions the primitive English bells, he says nothing about the weird side of antique campanology. His bells are bells that call to prayer or market, or give warning of fire. Sentiment, music, and business there may be in them, but of necromancy or magic, of their use in defying the devil or dispersing a storm, there is not a word in this book.

Mr. North tells us that the portable missionary bells were not cast in a mould, but were formed of sheets of metal riveted together so as to form a wedge-like figure, varying, usually, from five to ten inches in height, and "they were frequently preserved in richly ornamented cases of great beauty." But he should have added that nearly all the bells of this rude form are extremely like ordinary sheep bells (some of them, it may be suspected, were never anything but sheep bells), and that the rich cases have nothing to do with the original function and condition of the bells they protect; rather were they added (as in those wonderful Irish examples of which the Dublin Society possesses the choicest) by pious devotees centuries after the missionary saints had gone to their rest. Whether he had a right to quote Ingulphus as a witness to "the exquisite harmony of the seven bells of Croyland Abbey" will be matter of doubt to those who have inquired into the history of that questionable character. Apart from this it is right to say that he collected a good deal of curious matter concerning primitive bells, and that he did so while hurrying to the larger, if not more interesting part of his subject, which had always been near his heart, the Gothic bells of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries.

As our former reviews of Mr. North's books have shown, a vast amount of curious matter concerning bells has of late been exhumed from the fabric rolls of minsters and civic buildings. We know what were the alloys most favoured for bell-metal—that (having Scriptural warrant for such a sacrifice) certain enthusiasts cast their silver plate into the melting pots, in the delusive hope of thereby softening the sounds of the bells to be. We know that, the roads notavouring transport of such ponderous articles, bells were usually cast (as the besieging Turks cast their monstrous cannon under the walls of Rhodes) at the bases of the towers where some of them still hang. We know, to a pint, how much beer was consumed on such occasions; that John of Gloucester, the "belleyetere," employed in 1346 by the sacrist of Ely to cast four huge bells for his cathedral, had a thirsty crew engaged in that hot office, and the burser recorded what he had to pay for their liquor. Mediaeval London was a great place for bell-casting, hence Billiter (or Belleter) Street had its name, and Mr. Stahlschmidt records

the name of more than one dweller in that ancient thoroughfare who made bells and sent them all over England. The fact is significant of the improved condition of the roads, as well as of the importation of foreign brass and the centralization of crafts in the metropolis.

The patriarch of inscribed bells in England—there are older bells on the Continent—will soon complete its tenure of six centuries in the tower of St. Chad, Claughton, Lancashire, and is dated ANNO DNI. M. CC. NONO VI.; but there are several bells yet *in situ* whose peculiar forms unquestionably prove their seniority to St. Chad of Claughton. Nevertheless, the bell which was new when Balliol resigned his crown after the battle of Dunbar, and while the English were carrying to Westminster the Coronation Stone of Scone, may well excite the veneration of duller souls than Mr. North. Had the Bridgewater bell survived it would be older than St. Chad's, which, again, is a mere infant compared with that which had, according to Bede, announced to the nun of Hackness the death of St. Hilda at Whitby. This story, whether literally true or not, obviously refers to a large bell such as "used to wake and call them [of Hackness] to prayers." This seems to show that large bells were no wonders in the seventh century, and it is the earliest record of such a thing in this island. Mr. North astutely recognizes in the massiveness of the existing Anglo-Saxon church towers the bigness of the bells they were intended to sustain. King Egbert, c. 750, ordered every priest to sound the bells of his church before service. Bells must have been common before this was commanded. The law of the Curfew—which in its crude form was, of course, much older than the Conquest—proves the common use of bells in churches.

It is, alas! by such evidence alone we are able to conceive the bigness of these ancient bells, and it was not till long after St. Chad's bell was hung at Claughton that the grandest dated bells, which are in Lincolnshire, were cast. Thus the third at South Somercotes in that county bears the rhyme:

Dulcis cito melis
Campana vocor Gabrielis
A° Do M° CCC XX. III.

Gabriel's twin brother Peter, second of the same peal, has kept company with the Archangel since the same year. They were cast by the same founder. At Somerby, near Brigg, is another bell, dated 1431, and identifiable as his handiwork by the repetition of certain beautiful Gothic ornaments they bear in common. Gabriel is a "sizable" bell, being forty-three inches across the mouth. At Toynton St. Peter is another bell bearing a *fleur de lys* identical with those on the above-named. The Somerby bells have the name of the donor, "Tomas Cumberworth me fecit," and invoke "Marie" and "Trinitate Sacra," for although the name of [Sir] T. Cumberworth is followed by "me fecit," it is beyond question that he was the donor, and not the founder. It is the lettering and ornaments which prove they had all one founder. Other bells in the same county bear signs connecting them with the same unknown belleter—for instance, at Hameringham, Gunby, and

Beesby. In all eleven bells attest their maker's fame, and the fine taste of his stamps and lettering proves him to have had the soul of an artist. It is a pity Mr. North omitted—for it would have done more to show the culture and skill of the age when Sir Thomas Cumberworth flourished in the comparatively remote county of Lincoln than all the inscriptions he took so much pains about—to give outlines of the contours of this most interesting group of early English bells.

Of the Wimbish family of belleters we have had to speak on another occasion. Mr. North has less to say about them than might be expected, but he records how Bishop Peter of Exeter employed "Richard de Wimbis" to cast a bell now hanging in Goring Church, Oxfordshire; and we know he, in 1312, cast a bell for Trinity Convent, Aldgate, and others in Kent, Essex, Suffolk, and Northampton. Most of these men were itinerant, and they, of course, took their stamps with them, while they set up their moulds with the clay of the district in which they worked; and as, according to mediaeval practice, they would almost certainly adhere to a single form in shaping their bells, Mr. North and the other antiquaries who have confined their attention to the decorations and signatures should not have neglected the artistic evidence afforded by the contours. How long will it be before antiquaries understand that there is learning in art as well as in letters?

Mr. North very wisely condemns the noisy practice of change-ringing, a thing unknown in the Middle Ages, when "the founders strove to produce grandeur and dignity rather than musical sequence in their bells. They effected this object by using more metal in their castings than is now generally considered necessary." This leads to some interesting notes on the weight of ordinary bells, from which we may guess the degrees of their sonority, if not likewise their melody. Thus the bell Jesus at Ely weighed 37 cwt. 52 lb. These are not monsters like those mentioned in the record of Glastonbury at the Dissolution: "in the tower there [are] viij very great, in the churchyard, iii most huge." In the clocher at Bury St. Edmunds the first bell weighed 23 cwt.; second, 50 cwt.; third, 140 cwt.; great bell, 180 cwt. It is now understood why that stupendous campanile at Bury was built. Let us remember that Great Paul of London weighs 16 tons 14 cwt., Big Ben of Westminster 13 tons 10 cwt., Peter of York 12 tons 10 cwt., while Tom of Oxford weighs only 7 tons 11 cwt., and so the scale decreases till we come to the Great Bell of Gloucester, the biggest English example in existence of that cycle, which weighs only 2 tons 18 cwt. Great Paul was cast at Loughborough in 1881.

Mr. North evinces small sympathy with the poetry of his subject, yet he offers abundance of the materials of poetry. He does not tell us why so large a proportion of mediaeval bells are under the invocation of the Virgin, and why not a few bear Leonine verses such as

Sum Rosa pulsata Mundi Maria vocata.

It is easy to imagine why a host of bells were dedicated to the Archangel Gabriel, and why Michael was similarly favoured;

but why Uriel's name was never—so far as is yet known—resounded it is hard to say. We miss, too, Zophiel and Zadkiel. At Wymington, in Bedfordshire, Raphael is mentioned in

Musa Rafaelis sonat auribus Emanuelis.

Mr. North has a curious chapter on the fate of bells (their names were Legion) at the Dissolution. It is known that Henry lost at dice the great bell of Westminster, but it is less well known that in a single bargain he sold for 900/-, 100,000 lb. of bells and bell metal. Edward VI. and Elizabeth tried to stop the plundering of the towers, but the amount of metal exported, mostly to Holland, was stupendous. But, as Fuller said in his quaintest vein, "Church goods were utterly embezzled by persons not responsible; more were concealed by persons not detectable, so cunningly they carried their stealth, seeing every one who had nimmed a church bell did not ring it out for all to hear the sound thereof."

THE FRENCH GALLERY.

Of the hundred and twenty pictures exhibited at the pleasant little gallery in Pall Mall about a score or so are excellent and a few are first rate. Although it is rather rough and somewhat heavily painted, still we admire M. A. Stevens's *Hours of Idleness* (No. 4), a study of green, grey, and blue, representing a lady reclining on a couch and reading. M. Stevens's carnations are generally deficient in clearness and purity of colour, but the flesh is in this instance painted with an unusual sense of the beauty of nature. —The *Spanish Interior* (5) of Fortuny, although little more than a "blot," is a vigorous and solid study of effect, chiaroscuro, and colour; still it is not worthy of the master whose name it bears. —Prof. L. Knaus, one of the few German painters to whom a sense of grim humour can be attributed, has sent a potboiler full of spirit and character, called *The Malcontent* (8), because it depicts a malevolent anarchist seated in a *Bierhaus*, with his truculent-looking but safely muzzled dog couched at his feet and looking at us with a wicked and watchful eye, his visage being strangely like the man's, although he is the better animal of the two. His master's half-savage and quite besotted yet fierce expression is first rate, and in true keeping with his moody, sullen air. A number of revolutionary journals are near him. The local colours, as is often the case with the artist, are rather muddy, but the subject requires a dingy coloration.

M. G. Courtois's *Recueillement, Souvenir de Venise* (15), was lately at the Salon, and shows rare spirit and sympathy. Slight as its handling is, the faces, although neither of them is perfectly drawn, are admirable, and the design loses nothing from being very simple. —The *Egyptian Palm Seller* (22) of Prof. Müller, a poor and tame thing at best, is academic, and harder than ever. —M. L. Ruiperez's *A Card Party* (24) evinces much energy and dexterity, but it is by no means one of the best pieces by one of the most clever and accomplished followers of Meissonier. —It is always pleasant to meet with a painting of M. Berne-Bellecour; therefore we are glad to see the little, brilliant, solid, and well-massed study of light and colour here called *On the Sea-Shore, Dinard* (30), a rocky coast view. —Among several examples by Heer J. Israëls we like best the most finished and solid of them, entitled *The Sick Wife* (36), a lugubrious subject most lugubriously treated. It evinces the painter's characteristic sympathy and facility, but it is so slight as not to be worthy of the good design. Another work of this able artist, who, although rarely venturing beyond a narrow circle of ideas, and almost a mannerist, never fails to command our atten-

tion, is *Old and Worn Out* (52). The story is well told and genuine. The illumination, coloration, chiaroscuro, details, handling, and all the rest of Heer Israëls's pictorial properties are here; there is nothing new, yet we are bound to praise the whole, although it is perhaps the slightest of his productions.

Such mastery, such consummate and vigorous brush-play, and so firm a touch as Mlle. R. Bonheur had employed on the fine life-size, half-length figures of a *Bouc et Chèvre* (43) are rarely seen nowadays. The head of the *bœuf* is depicted with forthright energy and self-restrained skill, such as Rubens himself seldom surpassed and did not always attain. In these respects, if not in warmth of colour, the picture is worthy of him. —The small *Study of a Bull* (50), by Troyon, has much character and naturalness: it is, too, luminous, powerful in tone, and rich in colour. —A pretty, deftly painted and mannered trifle is M. Henner's sketch of the *Head of a Nun* (49). —No pictures here attract and deserve more attention than the brilliant and highly finished contributions of Prof. A. Holmberg, the larger but less choice of which is the *Virtuoso at Home* (44), a nearly life-size figure of an old antiquary seated at a table surrounded by *bric-à-brac*, and diligently studying an early printed book. The face is so true to the life that it fails pictorially from being a portrait, and devoid of the generalization such a subject demands to secure our interest. Painted in the fullest tones of light and colour, exquisitely finished throughout, and exhaustively faithful in representing the textures, surfaces, and colours of the glass vessels, sculptured wood and ivory, tissues, brass and gold, as well as the various effects of light upon them, the whole reminds the visitor of Cranach's most elaborate and solid workmanship, and shows the technical resources of nineteenth century art. Interesting as this large picture proves itself, we prefer No. 75, *In the Sacristy: Leisure Hours*, where, in one of those sumptuous chambers it has often been the delight of Prof. Holmberg to paint, three ecclesiastics are grouped near a window splendidly decorated in yellow stain, while one of their number reads aloud from a little volume which looks like a classic printed by one of the Stephensens. The subtle differentiation of the expressions of the faces is honourable to the artist, and in perfect keeping with the scene and the supposed characters and histories of the figures. They live, so to say, in the seventeenth century, and so real and sincere, so fine and thoroughly in harmony with itself, is the picture that we may be said to become auditors of the reader, and take our place beside the tall thin priest in black and white robes, whose penetrating and eager look is lifelike, while his elder and more sedate comrade sits lost in fancy. Technically speaking, while quite as brilliant and delicate as its neighbour, this picture is broader, softer, and even truer. Any one who desires to see how true it is should remark the subtly studied and varied local colours of the shadows on the red carpet, and, above all, the manner in which the standing priest's white garment takes on one side the bright, cool, direct daylight, and on the other side the warmer lustre which is reflected from the wall of the room into its shaded portions.

Very spirited and effective is the old woman's head called *Retrospection* (62), by M. Aronson-Danzig. The white of her ancient German hood is skilfully associated with her somewhat pallid complexion; her brooding expression is true and pathetic. —In the faces in Mlle. T. Schwartz's *Orphélinat Bourgeois, Amsterdam* (64), girls practising for a choir, there is genuine and varied expression, but the life-size figures are four times bigger than was required. —We can praise M. Bille's *Brittany Shepherdess* (77), M. Munier's *Going to School* (81), and M. E. Feyen's *Fish Market, Tréport* (86). —

Meissonier's *Connoisseurs* (87), measuring about three by four inches, is full of spirit and skill.

—Prof. Knaus's lively and pretty street arab, whose capital figure illustrates the motto "*He lives by his Wits*" (85), ought not to be overlooked by any one who cares for character and humour.

A MISSING ROMAN INSCRIPTION.

Lancing College, March 30, 1891.

I SHOULD be greatly obliged to any reader of the *Athenæum* who would put me on the traces of a Roman inscription found, with other Roman remains, at Filey in 1857. It consists of the words

CÆSAR SE
QVAM SPE

scratched on a bit of shale, the local rock. It was first published by Dr. W. Cortis in the *Reports of the Scarborough Philosophical and Archaeological Society* (xxvi., 1858, p. 18), with a plate, and after him by Whellan, "History of the North Riding" (Beverley, 1859), ii. 895. In 1865 it was exhibited at the Durham meeting of the British Archaeological Association, and there copied by Thomas Wright, who noticed it in the *Intellectual Observer* (viii., 1866, 234). From Wright it was repeated by W. T. Watkin (*Archæological Journal*, xxxi., 1874, 349), and from Watkin by Hübner (*Ephemeris Epigr.*, iii. p. 143, n. 125), who, for some mysterious reason, has classed it among the "tiles and bricks." From Dr. Cortis's illustration, and from the character of the inscription, it seems possible that the thing may be a forgery; such a thing would not have been at all impossible in Yorkshire about 1857. To determine this one should see the original, and so far my efforts to trace it have failed. The Archaeological Association does not appear to possess any list, printed or manuscript, of the articles exhibited at Durham in 1865, nor can any one help me in Yorkshire.

F. HAVERFIELD.

Jim-Kit Gossipy.

A SOCIETY for the Encouragement and Preservation of Indian Art, with the P.R.A. for patron, Sir M. E. G. Duff for president, and Sir James Linton and Lord Napier for vice-presidents, has been formed. This body proposes to foster the indigenous decorative arts of India, and, if possible, preserve their characteristics by encouraging the native workers to continue their hereditary handicrafts, extending among European buyers a taste for genuine Indian design and work, and enlisting the sympathies of the native princes and magnates. The programme of the Society deplores the ever-widening degradation of the native decorative crafts of India, which "are being discredited by the prevailing rage for cheapness." The subscription for ordinary members of the Society is five shillings a year. Among the Council we find the Ladies Grant Duff, Napier, Hobart, and Hope; Col. Jacob, Mr. C. Jehangher, Mrs. Sutherland Orr, Major-General Webber, Lieutenant-General Pollard, Mr. C. Purdon Clarke, Col. O. T. Burne, Mr. W. Crane, Mr. V. Griggs, Mr. V. Robinson, Sir C. Turner, the Maharajah of Travancore, the Rajah Yajassati Rao, H.H. the Senior Ranee of Travancore, and the Ranee Yajassati Rao.

MR. WATTS has lately completed an important series of drawings in red chalk, which together form what may be called an epitome of all the large subject pictures he has produced during his career. When arranged in proper order, they will illustrate the connexion of the ideas informing and inspiring each example, and thus develop the motives of the whole. Probably the drawings will before long be shown in Messrs. Agnew's galleries, Old Bond Street. Everybody will be glad to hear that Mr. Watts has been in good health during the winter. He sends to Burlington

House a graceful portrait of Lady Catherine Thynne, a life-size, half-length figure, in full front view, distinguished by the beauty of the rosy carnations and subtle modelling of the flesh. He will probably send to the New Gallery a study of Naples as he saw it two years ago.

The works of art bequeathed by Mr. Henry Lammin, of Newark and Streatham, have been opened to public view at Nottingham Castle. There are some Crown Derby and Worcester porcelain, a water-colour drawing by De Wint, two drawings by C. Fielding, sketches by D. Cox, and other similar examples. The oil paintings are fifty in number; among them are two by Constable, 'A Woodland Stream' by Creswick, several forest studies by John Crome, two by C. Fielding, sketches by A. Nasmyth and J. Stark, a picture by Linnell, two Turners, a Wright of Derby, two G. Vincents, and various examples by G. Clint, A. W. Calcott, and J. S. Cotman.

In addition to Signor Checa's 'Roman Chariot Race,' which we mentioned last week, Mr. Lefèvre will exhibit next week in King Street, St. James's, a new picture by Mlle. R. Bonheur, called 'After a Storm in the Highlands,' and Mr. W. D. Sadler's 'For He is a Jolly Good Fellow.' The private view is appointed for to-day (Saturday). On Monday the public will be admitted. The private view of the Continental Gallery, 157, New Bond Street, and its public opening occur on the above-named days. The New English Art Club has appointed to-day (Saturday) for a private view of the Spring Exhibition. The public will be admitted on Monday next.

MESSRS. CASSELL & Co. are going to publish in a few days a memoir of the late Mr. Richard Redgrave, R.A., by Miss F. M. Redgrave, who has had the assistance of the journal kept by her father, which during the earlier years assumed the form of an autobiographical sketch.

MR. F. MADOX BROWN will be represented at the approaching exhibition in Berlin by (1) a new version of the design of his 'Sardanapalus' (a capital etching from which we noticed some time ago), carried out from nature and in oil; (2) 'Haidee and her Maid finding Don Juan after the Wreck'; (3) 'Wycliffe on Trial in Old St. Paul's defended by John of Gaunt'; and (4) 'The Romans building Maniculum.' The last is the version, painted in oil, of one of the artist's decorations of the Manchester Town Hall. We have already described all these examples as they were finished, and at length.

THE honour of succeeding to the *fauteuil* of Meissonier in the Académie des Beaux-Arts has deservedly fallen on M. J. P. Laurens, who was elected on Friday of last week.

FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED pictures sent for exhibition in the Salon of the Champs Élysées were raised from the ground floor to the first floor of the *palais*, there to await the judgment which selects 1,800 of them for exhibition. Besides these, 1,500 were sent in which were not thought good enough to be taken upstairs.

K. W. OESTERLEY, a painter and art critic well known in Germany, born in 1805, has just died at Hanover. For a number of years he held the Chair of History and Theory of Art at Göttingen.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—'Orfeo.' 'Faust.'

It is scarcely correct to say that Italian opera is again firmly established in London, for neither in the works to be given nor in the artists who will take part in them is the peninsula so strongly represented as in former times. But musicians may at any

rate rejoice that, thanks to the ability and industry of Mr. Augustus Harris, they will be enabled to witness performances of the highest class for the next four months. Gratitude is due to the present impresario at Covent Garden for the proof he has afforded that the decline of opera in London was due merely to an advance in public taste and requirements, which he has been swift to act upon to the advantage of art. No better choice than Gluck's 'Orfeo' could have been made to inaugurate the season, the striking impression made by this masterpiece, with Mlle. Giulia Ravogli in the principal part, during the autumn season under Signor Lago's management being fresh in remembrance. The gifted Italian artist reproduced all the finest features of her embodiment on Monday, and her sister, Mlle. Sofia Ravogli, rather strengthened her position as Eurydice, her voice sounding more agreeable than before. That invariably competent artist Mlle. Bauermeister was excellent in the part of Eros. Of course the stage arrangements have received far more care than was the case in the previous revival, but they are by no means unexceptionable. The dance of furies lacked harmonious arrangement, and the costume and pirouetting of the principal *danseuse* were alike incongruous. The famous chaconne, formerly played as an *entr'acte*, is now restored to its place at the end of the opera, and the scene in the Temple of Love is the most artistic in the representation.

The high favour in which the American soprano Miss Eames is held in Paris was proved on Tuesday to be well deserved. Her choice of Marguerite in 'Faust' for her London *début* was distinctly wise, for the part enables her to display her qualifications to the best advantage. These are a soprano voice of remarkably pure and sympathetic *timbre*, a method free from defect of any sort, and a refined and prepossessing appearance. Miss Eames has been trained in the best school of vocalization, and it was delightful to note the ease with which she produced her voice, never yielding to the temptation to force it, even in the extreme upper and lower registers, where at present it is weakest. The same self-restraint characterized her efforts as an actress. The display of dramatic power in the later scenes was not great; but the girlish simplicity of Marguerite before she comes under the spell of the demon was perfectly expressed. In short, the *début* was a striking success, and Miss Eames cannot fail to prove a valuable acquisition to the company. Signor Perotti repeated his careful impersonation of Faust, and M. Maurel his powerful presentation of Mephistopheles. Mlle. Guercia, who, though announced as a new-comer, sang here a few years ago, displayed a fine voice as Siebel, but physically she is unsuited to the part. M. Ceste was competent as Valentine. The modifications in the scenic arrangements in the fourth act are improvements; but the church scene is still played at the beginning instead of, as it should be for the sake of dramatic consistency, at the end of the act. The orchestra and chorus are both of excellent quality this season, and it should be noted that the latter sing with some degree of expression—a rare merit in an operatic choir.

THE MUSIC OF 'L'ENFANT PRODIGUE.'

WHILE fully admitting the skill displayed in the construction of M. Michel Carré's pantomime play and the excellence of its interpretation, we are strongly of opinion that much of the success it has gained—first in Paris and now in London—is due to M. Wormser's music. The composer, who is now forty years of age, gained distinction at the Paris Conservatoire, and he has published some pianoforte music, but so far as we are aware 'L'Enfant Prodigue' is his first work of pretension. Though new to the present generation, at any rate as regards serious drama, this form of art was highly popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and it may be said to have survived in the *ballet d'action*, still an important feature on the operatic stage abroad, though in London it is now confined to the variety theatres. The difficulty of M. Wormser's task lay in the fact that he had to illustrate in the most graphic manner all the trifling details in a homely story, and at the same time to preserve as much as possible continuity of musical interest. His success in both these matters is so striking as to amount to a positive manifestation of genius. With regard to the structure of the score, it should be noted that the pianoforte has a very important part, sometimes playing with the orchestra and at others by itself. The varied effects produced by this arrangement may possibly recall Bach's accompaniments to the recitatives in the 'St. Matthew' Passion Music. M. Wormser is without doubt a well-read musician, for although his style is for the most part French, he shows intimate acquaintance with the German masters, some of the pianoforte passages suggesting the influence of Beethoven. The principal leading motives are a remarkably expressive and impassioned love theme and a delicious waltz melody associated with the heartless Phrynette. This is one of several subjects which are developed into symmetrical movements while the action of the play continues. In the purely descriptive and, of course, fragmentary figures the composer is singularly happy, especially in the humorous moments of the play. In short, M. Wormser's score is a masterpiece of inspiration and ingenuity, and his future efforts will be awaited with interest.

Musical Gossip.

DR. MACKENZIE'S 'Dream of Jubal' was performed for the first time at the Crystal Palace last Saturday. The choir was a little rough and unsteady, but in other respects the performance was satisfactory. Madame Nordica and Mr. Iver McKay rendered justice to the principal solos, Miss Hannah Jones and Mr. Vernon P. Taylor were efficient in the subordinate parts, and Mr. Charles Fry delivered the recitation with more than usual artistic feeling and emphasis.

THE Festival of the Three Choirs will take place this year at Hereford, on September 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. The following is an outline of the programme: Tuesday morning, 'St. Paul'; evening, in the Shire Hall, a miscellaneous concert, including Prof. Stanford's ballad 'The Battle of the Baltic.' Wednesday morning, Mozart's 'Requiem,' Beethoven's 'Eroica' Symphony, Sir Arthur Sullivan's Festival 'Te Deum,' Wagner's 'Parsifal' Prelude, and a setting of Newman's hymn 'Praise to the Holiest,' by Dr. Henry Edwards; evening, Dr. Stainer's 'St. Mary Magdalen' and the 'Lobgesang.' Thursday morning, Spohr's 'Calvary,' Bach's motet 'Blessing, glory,' and a new 'De Profundis,' by Dr. Hubert Parry; evening, 'Elijah.' Friday morning, 'The Messiah'; evening, a chamber concert. It will be noted in the above scheme that the two novelties, although not important, are both by English composers; also that two of the evening performances will be held in the cathedral, and that a Wagnerian

prelude will be given, probably for the first time, in a sacred building. We welcome the innovation on the ground that all good music is in its essence sacred music, irrespective of the fact that 'Parsifal' is far more religious in tone than many oratorios. The principal artists already engaged are Mesdames Albani, Anna Williams, Hilda Wilson, and Mary Morgan, and Messrs. Lloyd, Santley, and Brereton.

At the Welsh National Eisteddfod to be held at Rhyl in 1892 the committee have agreed to perform Dr. Joseph Parry's oratorio entitled 'The Life of St. Paul,' and have made him a grant towards the expense of publishing the work.

SHORTLY before the next concert of the Bristol Choral Society, Dr. E. H. Turpin will deliver a lecture on the works to be performed—namely, Barnett's 'Ancient Mariner,' Mendelssohn's 'Loreley,' Schumann's Requiem, and Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens.' This is an excellent idea, and might be widely adopted with advantage.

Two performances of 'Judas Maccabæus,' a work very rarely heard in France, were given this week at Toulouse, with 400 executants.

CONCERTS AND OPERAS NEXT WEEK.	
MON.	Mr. Percy Nottcutt's Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Warwick Street Orphanage Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.	8. 'Faust.'
TUES.	Royal Italian Opera.
—	Music for the Poor, 8, Portman Rooms.
LAWYER HALL CONCERT.	8, 8.30, Portman Rooms.
—	Concert in Aid of a Charity, 8.30, Steinway Hall.
ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.	8.30. 'Orfeo.'
WED.	Madame Frickenhaus's Piano Recital, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Royal Italian Society, 8, 8.30, Albert Hall.
—	Miss Josephine Sibley's Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
—	Hanover Music School Pupils' Concert, 8, Steinway Hall.
ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.	
—	Strolling Players' Amateur Orchestra Society's Concert, 8.
THURS.	Miss Ross Kenney's Matinée, 2.30, Steinway Hall.
—	Miss Ada Wray's Concert, 3, Prince's Hall.
—	Philharmonic Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
—	Recital of the Garden Scene from 'Faust,' &c., 8, Hampstead.
—	Mr. Louis F. Schiller's Recital, 8, Steinway Hall.
ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.	
FRI.	Mr. F. Boscoff's Piano Recital, 3, Steinway Hall.
—	Wind Instrument Chamber Music Society, 8.30, Royal Academy.
—	Royal Italian Opera.
SAT.	Crystal Palace Concert, 3.
—	Messrs. Willy Hess and Hugo Becker's Matinée Musicale, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Royal Italian Opera.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

PRINCESS'S.—'Linda Grey,' a Play in Five Acts. By the late Sir Charles L. Young.

MRS. LANGTRY is not happy in the selection of her plays. While her method has improved greatly, and she may, with certain limitations, be praised as an actress, she handicaps herself by playing characters which are unconventional without being original, and strong without being interesting. Like many, it may almost be said most, actors who have control of management, she seems to hold that the way to secure the success of a play is to give the public plenty of herself. This plan is not unfailing. Cases have, indeed, been known in quite recent days where an actor who has slain a play by giving too much of himself has sought to snatch victory out of defeat by substituting another in which he was still more prominent. If ever there was justification for a fatal heresy it is supplied in the case of Mrs. Langtry. If the public does not go to the Princess's to see Mrs. Langtry, it is difficult to say why it 'goes.' Mrs. Langtry was all 'Antony and Cleopatra' and all 'Lady Barter,' she is now all 'Linda Grey.' Very pleasant indeed is it to behold that lady, with her fair face and superb carriage, in a series of dresses, each lovelier and more artistic than the preceding. The effect of these things is enhanced by her display of "hate and pride and fear," and by her assumption

of attitudes picturesque and forcible. When, however, as in this case, her aims fail to inspire any interest, when her proceedings are indifferent in themselves and ill calculated to produce the results desired, and when the words she has to speak have neither value nor significance, an entertainment is apt to pall. 'Linda Grey' is, in short, a poor, inept melodrama, which in losing the blood and thunder element loses all. A tale of the escape from prison of a man of position unjustly convicted of murder, and sentenced to be hanged, it bristles with improbabilities. A wife, whom under conditions scarcely conceivable the hero has married, undertakes to vindicate her husband's character, retrieve his fortunes, and bring the real criminal to justice. This task she accomplishes in a manner that neither stimulates nor pleases, and the only sentiment that the spectator feels at the close is that he has been rather cleverly fooled, since the murderer is other than he imagined. The very playbill has the old melodramatic heads, "The Return," "Seeking the Wanderer!" "The Accident!" "Found!" "The Trail of the Serpent!" "The Supper!" "Found at Last!" If Mrs. Langtry hopes to hold a position on the stage, it must be with better pieces better played. Two or three competent actors are in the cast; but the whole constitutes another instance of "how not to do it."

Dramatic Gossip.

FRENCH plays are, it seems, once more to be established in London, M. Mayer being again the manager. In June next a section of the Comédie Française, headed by Mlle. Reichenberg and M. Febvre, will visit London, bringing with them 'L'Obstacle' and 'L'Art de tromper les Femmes.' The scene of their appearance is not yet announced. It is to be hoped that some theatre between that bandbox the Royalty and that mausoleum Her Majesty's will be found.

MR. TOOLE has returned to London, looking the better for his trip. On Thursday he met his friends for the first time at a supper given by Mr. Irving in the Beefsteak Room at the Lyceum.

MR. WILLS's 'Olivia,' with Miss Ellen Terry as the heroine and Mr. Irving as Dr. Primrose, will be revived at the Lyceum on Wednesday, the 22nd inst. After a short possession of the boards it will be replaced by 'The Corsican Brothers.'

For the benefit of Mr. Meyer Lutz a miscellaneous performance of great length was given on Monday at the Gaiety. A feature in it was the last appearance of Miss Nellie Farren, the most popular burlesque actress the stage has seen for many years, before her return to Australia.

'Belphegor' is to be the next production of Mr. Wilson Barrett, after the run of 'Hamlet,' which is to be revived on Monday, is over.

'My Lady Help,' in which Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Hamilton Knight, and Miss Florence West appear, now precedes 'The Henrietta' at the Avenue.

The fifth annual reading of the Shakespeare Reading Society will take place at the Royal Academy of Music on Friday evening next.

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W. B.—Please send address.

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